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THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2010

LOCAL OPTICIAN'S CHARITY CHALLENGE...

London to Paris – by a wooden Thames cutter!

A COWBRIDGE optician will be be rowing back to the land of her birth – when she takes part in a London to Paris race to raise money for the RNLI.



ABOVE:
Virginie has been training hard for the London to Paris event since Christmas.

by TIM CHAPMAN

Virginie Vendiesse (31) told The GEM: "The challenge is a non-stop six-day event over a distance of 480 miles in a traditional wooden Thames cutter.

"It will start at Big Ben on May 9 and the race follows the Thames to its estuary, across the English Channel, and up the River Seine from Le Havre to the Eiffel Tower."

For Virginie, it means returning home:

"I am from Arras in France which is a famous site of the First World War and now has a Canadian war cemetery.

"I first arrived in the United Kingdom when I was 20 years old and wanted to learn to speak English. Later, I qualified in optometry at Cardiff University."

Virginie has worked as an optometrist at O'Sullivan Opticians in Eastgate for two years.

She said: "I started rowing two years ago and I'm a member of Llandaff Rowing Club.

"At the club there's a gym, fitness classes, weights and, of course, a rowing machine which have all been helping me to get fit for the race.

"I also go to Richmond in London every two weeks to train with the crew."

The vessel she and her fellow crew members will man is a wooden cutter which is a "heavy, but stable" boat, and should be able to cope with a choppy channel crossing.

"The cutter will be accompanied by a motorboat for the trip and it takes six people to crew it.

"We have 12 people taking part, so it means people will row for three hours and then be able to take a break for three hours while the other group takes over.

"We can cope if the conditions are calm, or even choppy, but if they do worsen we will be restricted to just rowing the rivers."

Two other teams will compete against Virginie and her friends.

"It is a real endurance race and will be hard mentally – it will be a case of overcoming the pain to achieve something.

"We are raising money for the RNLI – I've already raised £2,201.77 for it, and hope people will support this great cause."

If people would like to back Virginie, donations can be made in two ways, to Virginie's website at *www.justgiving.com/Virginie-Vendiesse* or through the crew's own website: *www.outloars.com/Make-Contact.html*

'THE SOUND OF SILENCE'

Poignant memory of Llandow air disaster

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

"THE sound of the plane woke me up – it was no different to normal – I looked out of the window and it was on the ground, and there was just silence."

That is how Mrs Lydia Davies remembers the Llandow air disaster which occurred 60 years ago and claimed the lives of 75 Welsh rugby supporters returning from Ireland, along with five of the crew.

At the time, Lydia was a young woman of 20, who lived with her parents Evan and Olwen, sister Betty and brother Bryn at Park Farm, Sigingstone.

The farm was just 100 yards from where the Avro Tudor V aircraft crashed as it headed for Llandow Aerodrome – there were only three survivors. Two stumbled to the farm.

Lydia, who lives in nearby Llanblethian today, recalled the strange silence on that Sunday afternoon, March 12, 1950 as she looked across at the plane's wreckage.

"I used to go to sleep on Sunday afternoons before I'd go to milk the cows.

"The sound of the plane woke me up – it was no different to normal – I looked out of the window and it was on the ground, and there was just silence. It was so quiet.

"Two of the survivors came clambering over the garden hedge. They didn't have shoes on and got caught on the thorns.

"My mum and dad ran out to greet them. My mother bathed their wounds and we made them a cup of tea – fortunately, they weren't in too bad a way.

"One of them was a teacher, and we met them both again a few months later when an outdoor memorial service was held at Sigingstone.

"At the time, it was the world's worst aviation disaster.

"My sister Betty was a Sunday School teacher in Llysworney and while cycling back through the country lanes, a man told her, '*You don't know what you are going to see along there*', and it really unnerved her.

"I didn't go to the site of the crash on that day, but on the following day we ferried cups of tea to the people who were working there.

"On the day of the crash, I do remember that the emergency services were up from St Athan in no time."

One treasured memento that Lydia has held onto is a letter of thanks that one of the survivors wrote to her parents just four weeks after the event.

It reads:

April 10, 1950

Dear Mr Thomas and family,

I should like to thank you on behalf of my brother-in-law and myself for the extreme kindness you showed to us on the afternoon of the terrible air crash which occurred near your farm.

You will no doubt be interested to learn that we are both on the road to recovery and I hope to resume my school duties after the Easter holidays.

Thank you for your kindness and concern.

Yours faithfully,

D Gwynne Anthony.

The three survivors were Mr Anthony, Mr Handel Rogers of the Welsh Rugby Union, and Mr Meville Thomas, who at 85, is the only living survivor of the crash and lives in Llanharan.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



RIGHT:
Mrs Lydia Davies vividly remembers the events surrounding the Llandow air disaster to this day.

Council backs down over school transport charges

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

THE Vale Council cabinet has backed away from the controversial plan to charge £250 for school and college transport for over-16s.

The decision was made by the cabinet, who met shortly before The GEM went to press.

Opposition to the plan had come from many quarters.

As well as the council's own scrutiny committee, headteachers, school governors, and parents have all strongly argued against it.

Not surprisingly, pupils were opposed as well, and the pupil representative on the scrutiny committee, Cowbridge Comprehensive head girl Katie Dyer, made her feelings clear.

She told the scrutiny committee that the Government had a policy of encouraging young people into education, and she insisted that the proposal to introduce a charging policy towards student travel costs would discourage them.

She added that the school bus was the only way some pupils could attend sixth form – as many had no other way of getting to school.

The results of the council's own consultation exercise revealed taht 3,207 letters had been distributed, and that the council received 1,117 responses – all opposed to the scheme.

The report noted that 89 per cent of the responses were from the "denominational sector" – arising from the fact that St Richard Gwyn RC School has been particularly vocal in its opposition.

Pupils there have to move on to St David's College in Cardiff for their sixth form studies, and therefore would all have to pay, as there are no other realsitic means of getting to school in the morning.

The school's headteacher, Mike Clinch, has been strongly opposed to the plan.

The other main opposition grouping has been parents from the western Vale whose children attend the Welsh-medium Bro Morgannwg.

They have argued passionately that the decision would discriminate against pupils had chosen to be educated in Welsh.

The Vale Council response to this criticism had been to say that there would be no discrimination, because all pupils using the school bus would pay £250, irrespective of how far away they lived from the school

Now that the council has decided not to proceed, attention will turn to where else cuts might be made.

In recent statements, the Vale Council's director of learning and development, Bryan Jeffreys, has said that his department has no choice but to find savings, and that the 'charging for school transport' policy would save around £250,000 a year.

He said that if it was turned down, then similar savings would have to come from elsewhere in the education budget.

Alana Davies, the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for the Vale of Glamorgan, was first to comment, saying: "This is a victory for common sense.

"This climb-down from the Tory Vale Council is the result of the campaign led by local Labour councillors who made sure that the voices of parents, students and others were heard," she claimed.

Police appeal after man (76) is injured

POLICE in the Vale are appealing for information after a 76-year-old male pedestrian was seriously injured by a van as he walked between Cowbridge and Ystradowen.

The incident took place on Monday, February 8, at around 3pm.

A police spokesman said: "An elderly couple were walking along a narrow lane between Ystradowen and Cowbridge Road when they saw a red van approaching and stood on the verge.

"It appears that the door mirror of the van struck the man as it went past, causing serious injuries.

"He was taken by ambulance to the Princess of Wales hospital where his injuries were not life threatening."

The spokesman said that the van did not stop.

He continued: "We are looking for a red transit-type panel van with lettering or marking along the panels.

"Police believe it may be a TV aerial fitter's vehicle, and we would like to hear from any local residents who may have had a satellite dish or television aerial fitted on Monday, February 8."

• *Anyone with information is asked to contact PC Gareth Owens at Llantwit Major police station on 101.*

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The long wait for NHS treatment

THE GEM report on February 25 outlining the difficulty that a Mrs Swain of Cowbridge was having in waiting to see an NHS consultant, was bound to be jumped on by political opponents of the Welsh Assembly Government, and a large part of me has to agree with their sentiments.

I am not sure what advantage would be gained if the public knew all the facts regarding hospital appointments – especially in the case of Mrs Swain, who appears not to be receiving any satisfaction.

Telling the public how it is, is not a policy that any front line party in power would adhere to – if it were not positive and in their favour.

In 2005, the Assembly Government promised that within the next period of five years, they would bring down the waiting time after being referred by a doctor to a consultant and then receiving treatment to 26 weeks.

I considered this to be very reasonable, as probably if that target was achieved, a further reduction of waiting time could be expected over the next five years.

It means that after 18 weeks of waiting, she still has another eight weeks to see a consultant and have treatment. Only time will tell if that treatment is realised.

I object to politicians of all parties who make promises, yet fail to advise the public at regular intervals how their policies are progressing.

The NHS has only so many area hospitals and staff. If there are not enough, then the public should be told and the necessary costs should be obtained to right those problems, even if other areas of the running of the country suffers.

If that is not acceptable, we simply have to put up with it!

Jim Newborne, Cowbridge

Call to a local centre reunion

MAY I, through the medium of your newspaper, try to make contact with former pupils, trainees and staff who attended the former occupation and training centre, or later the Maes-y-Coed school.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of the building in Gladstone Road, Barry.

On Saturday, May 1 at 2pm onwards, courtesy of the Mencap Society, I will be at their hall in Court Road, Barry, where I would love to see again my old friends – including anyone who has ever had an association with the health department/education department, Social Services; also staff at the hostel Gladstone Road (Margaret, Kathleen, and Pam May).

My email address is : b*arbarallewann@google mail.com*; my phone number in France is: 0033 561 686 091; my UK mobile phone number is: 078 551 954 44.

Barbara Milhuisen (Jenkins)

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS? Email: ggem@ internet-today.co.uk

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

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We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'All they have to do is decline...'

'COUNCILLORS DO NOT HAVE TO ACCEPT RISE'

I WAS astonished and appalled to read in The GEM on March 11 that Vale councillors are to accept a 4 per cent rise when the vast majority of Vale residents (and indeed, the rest of Wales and the UK) are having to make do with pay freezes and or cuts to their incomes.

We all have to make larger payments for council tax, water, etc, out of the same income, yet Vale councillors think it appropriate to accept a recommendation by an independent review body of a whopping 4 per cent increase ... nice work being a councillor, if you can get it!

For a council spokesperson to simply quote a decision taken "some time ago" to go along with the review body's recommendations, is not appropriate in the current economic climate – that was then, this is now!

Neighbouring councillors in Neath, Port Talbot and Swansea have rejected the increases as they want to show sympathy and understanding with their residents.

All the councillors have to do is simply get together and pass a motion to decline the increase; they don't have to accept it!

Come on, Vale councillors, show us you are aware of the financial plight that affects your residents, the people that actually pay you – and refuse this inflation-busting hike in your allowances.

Karl Clark, Cowbridge

Foul play by a dog owner?

I LIVE in Coopers Lane, Cowbridge and try very hard to keep my tiny front garden attractive for both myself and passers-by.

Somebody is bringing their dog through here each morning and allowing it to foul my garden, even kicking over my wood chippings to try and disguise it.

It was a particularly large mess this morning which I had to clear up. I'm sure dog fouling is illegal in public places.

I suppose this person thinks they are avoiding fines by using someone's private property; how selfish.

Diana Lewis

'Support the plan for Vale Heritage Centre'

YOUR readers will have seen the recent article by Dr Jonathan Hicks about the possibility of establishing a Heritage Centre for the Vale of Glamorgan.

On behalf of the Cowbridge and District Local History Society, I have been attending the meetings of a coalition of history societies, historians and others concerned with the Vale's heritage.

There is strong support for this scheme from all parts of the Vale. It is seen as being an opportunity to act as a force that could help unify a recently-established administrative area through a consideration of the history, archaeology and historical geography of an ancient geographical region.

The coalition has assembled a powerful set of arguments for the establishment of such a centre in Barry where funds from a variety of sources, including section 106 and regeneration money may be available.

The case is to be presented to the scrutiny committee of the Vale council on March 23 at 6pm at the Council Offices in Barry.

Perhaps our local elected representatives might be encouraged to give their backing. Indeed, can I urge anyone who has an interest in these matters to attend and give their support to this worthwhile venture?

Dick Buswell, (Chair, Cowbridge and District Local History Society)

Tourism plans are laughable

I READ the recent comments made by Plaid Cymru candidate Dr Johnson about the Vale's policies for the Knap and have to wholeheartedly agree.

Having lived in the area since 1983, it is a huge surprise to me that so little has been done to generate any sort of tourism strategy for Barry Island of the Knap.

The laughable attempts to re-establish the boating lake as a tourist attraction are yet another example of the half-baked thinking of the council. To expect a couple of steel containers to entice would-be boaters speaks for itself.

The swimming pool will, I am certain, reconstitute itself, given sufficient rainfall.

Was this a plan drawn up on the back of a cigarette packet while somebody was waiting for their computer to reboot?

The area has a huge amount going for it. It is sadly disappointing that the same can't be said for council officials, who clearly lack the necessary foresight or creative thinking to put it back on the tourist map.

Robert Taylor, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 25)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
18 Thur	07.48	9.7	20.12	9.5
19 Fri	08.18	9.4	20.33	9.3
20 Sat	08.49	9.2	21.06	9.1
21 Sun	09.26	8.8	21.39	8.7
22 Mon	10.04	8.5	22.24	8.3
23 Tues	10.49	7.9	23.27	7.8
24 Wed			12.16	7.6
25 Thur	01.02	7.5	14.01	7.5

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide tablespecific to their location.

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline: Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0808 800 5000.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support - Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 4.30am (Wed 11am-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.
Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.
Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.
Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.
To report a fly tipping incident - 01446 700111.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.
For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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PE teacher takes up the London Marathon challenge for Vale hospice

COWBRIDGE PE teacher Laura Hale is facing the "challenge of a lifetime" as she gears up to run 26.2 miles for The Ty Hafan hospice at Sully.

Keen runner Laura has completed many half marathons so getting up at 6am every morning to train before teaching PE at Cowbridge is common practice and Laura is now hoping the local community will support her in her marathon challenge.

The hard work will all be worthwhile if she succeeds in raising £2,000 for the Ty Hafan Charity. Ty Hafan was established in 1999 to provide respite, palliative and end of life care to the children in Wales who suffer from life-limiting conditions. Life limiting conditions are those which mean that the child or young person is not expected to reach nineteen years of age.

"My family, friends and work colleagues have been very generous and I hope other people in the town will sponsor me if they can," said Laura.

"Even a few pounds will make a huge difference and mean The Ty Hafan Charity can continue their invaluable work supporting families."

You can sponsor Laura by visiting her online fundraising page on www.justgiving.com/Laura-Hale. You can pay by credit or debit card, and the money will go directly to The Ty Hafan Charity. Where supporters are UK taxpayers, the charity will automatically receive 28 per cent extra in Gift Aid, which makes Justgiving the most efficient way of sponsoring Laura.

Day in the life of an air traffic controller

COWBRIDGE U3A continues to go from strength-to-strength with a capacity crowd again attending the March meeting.

The speaker was Colin Eaton, air traffic control watch manager at Cardiff Airport.

He manages one of five 'Watches' which are responsible for ATC at the airport and started his presentation by outlining its history and the other civil airports in Wales that preceded it.

He also reminded the audience that this year is the 50th anniversary of the air disaster which occurred at Sigginstone,when an airliner bringing Welsh rugby supporters home crashed, claiming the lives of 80 people.

He stated that standards in ATC continue to improve. In the recent past, delays averaged two and a half minutes per flight and this has now been reduced to two and a half seconds in Britain's area of responsibility.

Standards in the rest of Europe are lower than this and efforts to get them to adopt our methods are ongoing.

The radar tower at Cardiff Airport is also being replaced and the new tower, which has already been built, will come into service soon.

The presentation was followed by a lively discussion with many of the questions relating to recent changes in operation which appear to have changed the noise levels being experienced by local residents.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Gavin Davies and supported by all present.

BC

OBITUARY

Gerald Idris Newman (1962-2010)

FAMILY, friends and neighbours attended the funeral of Mr Gerald Idris Newman, which took place at St Canna's Church, Llangan, on March 6.

Following a prayer by Rev Canon Val Hamer, a family friend, Judith Moore, paid tribute on behalf of family and friends.

Gerald was very well known in the area. he was born at Fferm Goch, St Mary Hill, attended Llangan Primary School and Cowbridge Comprehensive School, eventually making his name as a successful interior designer.

Although he had not been domiciled in the area of his birth, he was a constant visitor at the home of his parents, Norma and Bob.

Following the extremely moving service, Gerald was laid to rest in St Canna's churchyard.

Our thoughts at this very said time are with Norma and Bob, Diane, Philip and Robert.

Donations in Gerald's memory may be made to the Princess of Wales Hospital Diabetic unit.

NANCY DAVIDGE



COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

THE family quiz night which took place on March 12 at Llangan and St Mary Hill community hall was a very successful event, though unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to illness.

Dates for your diary: Pottery painting 2pm (March 31); Arts and crafts 2pm (April 1); Easter event – boules 1pm (April 3).

Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.

Read your GEM online: ***cowbridge-today.co.uk***

Green 'cafe' at farmers' market

TRANSITION Cowbridge is inviting members of the community to sit down and enjoy Fairtrade tea, coffee and local cakes at their stall at Cowbridge Farmer's Market on Saturday, March 20.

The local sustainability group has been active since last April and hopes this will give them an opportunity to chat about a range of ideas to create a more sustainable Cowbridge.

This will include the latest energy saving ideas, information on renewable energy tariffs and forthcoming courses on vegetable growing.

They aim to introduce volunteer projects which will give an opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and give something back to the town.

The group will also be giving away seedlings and home-made bird scarers for budding young vegetable growers.

Children will also be able to collect buckets for the 'Potato Bucket' competition, which has been rolled out in three local schools this week. The 'Potato Champion' will be crowned in June following a weigh-in to see who has produced the heaviest crop of potatoes.

Details from: Rob McGhee or Dinky Kennedy on 01446 775686 or transition-cowbridge@ google-mail.com

Big Screen's Julie and Julia

BIG SCREEN's next presentation is *Julie and Julia* (Cert 12A) which will be shown on Thursday, March 25 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

This is a film about the intertwining lives of Julia Childs who wrote the best selling 'Mastering the Art of French Cooking' in 1949 and went on to become the first TV cook, and Julie Powell who, in 2001, decided to try to work her way through all its recipes.

Meryl Streep plays Julia, a tough cookie as well as a brilliant cook. Amy Adams as Julie, is the perfect foil. A warm, romantic comedy.

Doors open at 7.10pm. Tickets £3 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Society competes

COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, March 25 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, when the annual spring Keith James Trophy will be competed for by members. The subject of this year's competition is 'Memories'. Non-members are welcome to attend.

Charity dance recalls days of elegance and refinement!



PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK

COWBRIDGE Fairtrade Action Group celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight this year with a Strictly Fairtrade Tea Dance, held in some style (mostly 20s) in the Town Hall.

The Palm Court Trio (Brian, Wayne and Gareth) set the pace with some strict-tempo music for quicksteps, foxtrots and waltzes, while Tony Kingsbury, star of CAOS, was crooner extraordinaire with his lovely silky voice, jewelled bow tie and sequinned formal jacket.

MC Dave Morris, recent mayor of Cowbridge and town councillor, includes among his many talents considerable expertise on the dance floor, enhanced by that of his partner, Lorraine Pointon-Bell who has represented Wales in ballroom dancing.

Allan and Liz James, who are avid amateur dancers, performed a dramatic Argentinian tango (red rose included) which left everyone feeling more than a little modest about venturing on the floor, but MC Dave got everyone up for a little light training in the waltz.

Tenovus provided period accessories such as waistcoats, trilbies and scarves – and even the loan of the manager's personal collection of tiered cake stands, so that the fairy cakes baked by members of the Fairtrade group could be served with appropriate elegance.

The tables were enthusiastically waited on by the Fairtrade group from Cowbridge Comprehensive (Alex, Kate, Beth, Alexa, Lloyd and Abi) who looked stunning in black and white.

Cowbridge Fairtrade Action Group would like to thank everyone who came to support us and everyone who couldn't come but sent donations (all takings went to the DEC Haiti Appeal).

Also, thanks go to everyone who helped with setting the scene: Beryl for the period table cloths; Olive for the waitress outfits; Beverley for the actual palms that created the Palm Court atmosphere and Andrew, Jackie and Billy, town hall staff who went out of their way to help.

Last, but not least, The Glamorgan GEM for the free publicity.

LINDA OSBOURNE

Llancarfan pupils show their green credentials!



ABOVE: The pupils show off their hard work

LLANCARFAN Primary School is celebrating being placed second in this year's local council-run recycling initiative to collect Yellow Pages.

Over 47 schools participated in the scheme to collect Yellow Pages and Christmas cards for recycling and to help reduce landfill in the Vale.

Llancarfan pupils received a gift card worth £100 for their efforts after a fantastic number of Yellow Pages were collected - an average of 3.3 per child, reported acting headteacher, Huw Lewis.

"I am proud to say that Llancarfan pupils have once again risen to the challenge and as a school we are always keen to support environmental campaigns such as these. The school eco-committee will help decide how best to spend the prize money," he added.

CHANCE TO WIN A FREE FOOD HAMPER



LEFT: *Feeling peckish? You could be the lucky winner of a hamper just like it!*

SHOPPERS at the Vale Farmers' Market on March 20 in Arthur John's car park, Cowbridge, can enter a free raffle for a hamper, which will contain a wide variety of foods donated by the stallholders.

"This will give customers the chance to taste a range of locally produced food that is sourced on our doorstep, rather than travelling from all over the globe," said market secretary, Myfanwy Edwards of Pwllywrach Farm, Colwinston.

It is planned to continue the hamper raffle at the Farmers' Market on the third Saturday of each month.

History society solves mystery of evacuation memories in Cowbridge

THE volunteers who make up Cowbridge Local History Society have recently shown their talents as history detectives – after a request from the far north of Scotland.

The society secretary, Dick Buswell, told The GEM how the society had been able to help with a wartime enquiry:

A few days ago, I received a phone call out of the blue from a lady in the Isle of Skye, seeking information for her daughter, who was doing a class project about evacuees.

Not surprisingly, none of the children in Skye had any experience of the evacuation of children during World War Two.

It transpired that the girl's great grandfather, Reginald Wager, and his sister Pat had been evacuated to Cowbridge from the Medway town of Chatham. Could the Local History Society shed any light on his time here?

Mr Wager remembered that they were lodged with a Mrs Jenkins in a house 'opposite a shop' with whom they stayed for four years.

Mrs Jenkins had a brother called Tom who was a thatcher and was locally admired for having thatched a play cottage that was given to the young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

As a boy, Mr Wager had learned to swim in the swimming pool made out of the river in Cowbridge, somewhere behind the town hall.



ABOVE: The house where the young evacuees stayed, which now is the home of Gail Armytage Florists.

He also remembered having to go to church three times every Sunday where he had to pump the organ. He also recalled the name of the headmaster of the school as Mr Roberts.

This is exactly the sort of query that Betty Alden had her crew at the Local History Study Centre in Old Hall love to get their teeth into. Within a few days, quite a lot of information had been found.

First, the Wager children were part of a large number of children who were evacuated to the south Wales area from the naval dock towns of north Kent that were exposed to German bombing during the War. There is even a Medway towns reunion group (MERG) that has been set up to exchange memories of those difficult times.

Betty was able to put the young girl's mother in touch with the secretary. There are some websites which record memories of the experiences of those times (See, for example, microsites.segfl.org.uk/evacuation/.) See also bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/stories/89/a6679489 for the experiences of a young girl evacuated from Staines to live in the town hall with the caretaker and his family.

The Study Room also had some details of a June Faulkner (nee Wells) who came from the Medway area too, and was billeted in Llanblethian.

The house in which Mr Wager and his sister stayed was 53 High Street, now the Vale of Glamorgan pub, but which had become a private house in 1923, although from the late 18C it had always been a pub, the Greyhound.

It had been the home of Lewis Jenkins, alderman and freeman of Cowbridge, but he died in 1929 in a larger house further east in the town.

The thatcher, Tom David, later lived at this address and it was his widowed sister, Mrs Jenkins, who took in Reg and Pat Wager in 1941.

She was probably not a relative of Alderman Lewis Jenkins.

Betty and her colleagues were able to assemble a great deal of historical information about the Vale and its off licence (see photo: now Gail Armytage, Florists) and about Tom David.

When the thatched cottage was being delivered to London the thatch caught fire and Tom David had to go and repair it, watched every day by the two princesses, who gave him a photograph of them and the cottage when it was finished.

A Mr Roberts was indeed head of Cowbridge Primary School in the 1940s; he also taught class 6. Other teachers included Miss Aubrey and Miss Coghill (infants), Miss Miles (class 1), Mr Frederick (classes 2 and 3) and the formidable Miss Thomas (class 4).

A photo of the school in Broadway will be sent to Skye, together with some photos of the Cowbridge swimming baths and some reminiscences of them recorded by Gethin Thomas (1918-2007).

Naturally, a photo of Holy Cross Church will also be included.

Sadly, since this research was undertaken, Reg Wager has died but this small episode in the history of Cowbridge will live on in the memories of his children and grandchildren.

There must be other recollections of evacuated children out there in Cowbridge and district. If you have anything to add, contact Betty Alden on 01446 773373.

DICK BUSWELL (Cowbridge and District Local History Society)

Choir entertains at Millennium Centre



ABOVE: The Cowbridge Male Voice Choir lines up in Cardiff Bay.

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir are currently celebrating their 40th anniversary year.

They have put the long, snowy winter behind them and have already given two memorable concerts.

On Saturday, March 6, they presented a free lunchtime concert on the Glanfa stage in the impressive atrium of the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff Bay.

This is the fourth year in succession that the choir have been invited to sing at the prestigious venue, and it gave the choir an opportunity to preview some of the projected programme for this year's annual concert which will take place in Cowbridge Leisure Centre at 7pm on Saturday, May 22.

The concert attracted an even bigger audience than ever before which was very satisfying.

On Friday, March 12, the choir entertained members of the National Farmers Union of Great Britain, who had gathered at the Hilton Hotel in Cardiff for their annual conference and dinner.

As the choir's main aim is to entertain audiences when raising funds for charitable causes, their varied and attractive repertoire is greatly appreciated at private functions such as this.

If you are interested in engaging Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, please contact concert secretary, Frank Maynard (01446 772454 or frankshinwa@talktalk.net).

If you would like to join or visit the choir, contact their chairman, Gwyn Thomas (01446 730552) or ww.gthomas@btinternet.com. Practices are held every Wednesday, 7.30pm-9.30pm in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

BW

Cowbridge Bridge Club results

THE results for Cowbridge Bridge Club are:

Vale of Glamorgan: Welsh Bridge Union Simultaneous Pairs, March 1 – 1st, Pat and Brian Swain 65.05 per cent; 2nd, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams 59.95 per cent; 3rd, Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner 57.87 per cent; 4th, Terry Evans and Alan Lewis 54.40 per cent; 5th, Mike Best and Mick Green 54.17 per cent; 6th, Sue Summerhays and Sue Norris 53.01 per cent.

Club night March 8 – 1st, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best 62.01 per cent; 2nd, Pat and Brian Swain 58.33 per cent; 3rd, Mary Moore and Peter Bugden 56.49 per cent; 4th, Terry Reilly and John Evans 56.17 per cent; 5th, Debbie and Simon Richards 55.52 per cent; 6th, John Raymond and David Wright 52.27 per cent; 6th, Sara Bartlett and Glenda Roberts 52.27 per cent.

Cowbridge 7 District Bridge Club at Llanbleddian Church Hall: Club night March 2 – 1st, Pat and Brian Swain 68.33 per cent; 2nd, Judy Springett and Ann Miller 58..75 per cent; 3rd, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear 58.75 per cent; 4th, Terri Pollard and David Wright 53.75 per cent; 4th, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berry 53.75 per cent; 6th, Chris and Vince Bennett 52.08 per cent.

Club night March 9 – 1st, Debbie Rosevear and Myrtle Hansard 58.59 per cent; 2nd, Sara Bartlett and Anne Hughes 56.50 per cent; 3rd, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen 56.00 per cent; 4th, Pat and Brian Swain 55.91 per cent; 5th, Hugh Williams and Gordon Berrey 53.50 per cent; 6th, Luba Ashworth and Joan Bird 52.50 per cent.

BS

Squash team still on course for league title

COWBRIDGE A Bar 44 squash team recorded a fine 4-1 win at lowly Risca A to retain their position at the top of South Wales Division Two East B.

The 17 points scored puts them on 121, three points ahead of both Caldicot B and Newport F, who have to play each before the end of the season, while the As have a theoretically easier run-in at Llanishen and home to relegation-placed Abercynon in the final week.

The summary of results includes a startling outcome from usual B team player, Julian Jenkins, at No 5. Skipper Nick Guard's words to describe Jenkins' performance were "JJ's on fire!" in producing a splendid 3-0 victory.

Richie Ford at No 4, while competitive, is still finding his first victory of the season rather elusive and went down 1-3.

Quite the reverse was true at positions 3, 2 and 1, with all three players, Garfield Leask, Jon Bisson and Nick Guard, turning in 3-1 results to contribute to an overall match win of 17-6.

The B team Bar 44 fortune's are still slipping away with their fifth 2-3 defeat of the campaign, this time at the hands of old adversaries Rhiwbina D. Ironically, J Jenkins featured here also but could not control the pace of hard-hitting opponent Gareth Harris on the night and drew a blank (7-9, 5-9, 1-9).

Chris Ranger started off great guns 9-1 at No 3, but the legs couldn't stick with an extremely fit opponent and he went down 1-3, even though a flourish in the fourth game nearly saw him level-up his match.

Paul Reynish too found himself 1-0 up before losing the next three games, albeit two of them in tie-breaks.

The performances of the night were most certainly at Nos 5 and 1 where Colin Baxter and Simon Payne secured excellent 3-0 victories with man-of-the-match Baxter only conceding six points while Payne ground down the highly competitive Kingsley Rees to take the third game 9-0 (match result 9-13, including bonuses).

The C team continue to be rooted to the basement of South Glamorgan Division Two and appear to be looking for that "bounce-back-ability" factor come the autumn.

For enquiries about membership and club activities, please contact either russ.watts@btopenworld.com or clive.prigg@btinternet.com

Gateway's annual dinner



'All together now, folks!'

THE 32nd annual dinner of the Cowbridge (Gateway) Monday Club took place in St Quentin's Suite, the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on March 8.

About 50 people gathered there, including the Mayor and Mrs Harris and presidents of the Cowbridge Rotary Club and Llantwit Major with Cowbridge Lions.

Mr Nicholas Jones was our excellent club chairman for the evening (ably assisted by Mr Mike Carey, president of the Lions).

Financial support was acknowledged from Rotary Club of Cowbridge, Llantwit Major with Cowbridge Lions, the Provincial Grand Chapter of South Wales, the Emerald Lodge, the United Free Church, Cowbridge, the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council and Vale Council.

Entertainment was provided by 'Half Tidy', the club members taking full advantage of the tambourines provided to join in with the music making and they also enjoyed a dance or two!

An exciting programme of events is coming up, including a mystery summer outing on June 24, and trip to the pantomime in Porthcawl on December 28.

Anyone with a learning difficulty (aged 16 or over) is welcome to join the club – meeting usually at the United Free church (entrance via Broadshoard) on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm.

Further information can be obtained from president Betty Alden on 01446 773373, or secretary Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

AR

'Seedy Saturday' swap for the Samaritans!

TRANSITION Llantwit is inviting the public to 'Llantwit Major's third Seedy Saturday' on March 27 at 10am-3pm.

"Come along to 7 Fitzhamon Avenue to swap seeds, plants and cuttings – and don't worry if you have nothing to swap, you can still take home something to grow, for free," a spokeswoman urged.

"If you are new to growing flowers and vegetables, now is your chance to learn how to raise your own healthy plants, pick up our sowing and growing information sheets, and chat with more experienced gardeners (usually keen to share their favourite tips!).

"There will be seedy fun and games for young and old, and a chance to enter the Great Llantwit Sunflower Race.

"Meanwhile, there will be delicious soup, home baking, and Fairtrade refreshments, all proceeds going to Llantwit Major Friends of Bridgend Samaritans," she added.

Telephone phone 01446 796849 for more information or to offer help.

SCOTT CENTENARY

THE Captain Scott Society is joining other polar organisations to mark the June centenary of the departure of Captain Scott's expedition ship, *SS Terra Nova*, from Cardiff.

The society aims to recreate the events during the five days she was in Cardiff in June 1910, including the banquest held in the Captain Scott Room at the Royal Hotel.

The departure itself will be recreated by the Tall Ships Youth Trust vessel, the *Stavros S Niarchos*, with the ocean survey vessel *HMS Scott* providing a naval presence. The *Stavros S Niarchos* will be excorted by *HMS Express* and the band of HM Royal Marines will play as she departs.

Vale Council defends its 'scrutiny' over Bryneithin Care home

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE Leader of the Vale Council has defended the scrutiny process over Bryneithin Care Home after an opposition councillor claimed that if proper scrutiny had taken place, legal problems would have been identified earlier.

In December last year, the Vale Council made the decision to close the home which cares for elderly people with dementia.

But last week, the residents heard that their legal challenge over an "anticipatory breach of contract" had been successful, and they would be able to see out the remaining years of their lives in Bryneithin.

The Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Gordon Kemp, said remarks made by the Plaid opposition leader on the council, Coun Nic Hodges, amounted to an "intemperate tirade".

Coun Nic Hodges claimed a council u-turn could have been avoided.

He said: "I find it astonishing that it has only just come to light that the residents' contracts protected them from being forced out and the home being closed.

"This shows a serious lack of judgement by the Conservative-run council, and I must question the procedures that nearly got us to incorrectly close this precious facility."

Coun Hodges went on: "The scrutiny process was severely undermined by the chair of the social care and health scrutiny committee, Tory member Coun Sophie Williams, who personally refused at least three requests from my members for 'call-in'.

"In fact, we have had 13 refusals on 'call-ins' on scrutiny this year, compared to no refusals in the two years before."

Coun Hodges said: "A debate may have revealed the legal issue that led to the u-turn. Coun Williams has clearly put party and position above the very important process of proper scrutiny.

"I feel that if the scrutiny committee had been allowed to debate the facts, the legal question over contracts would have come to light.

"Her inexperience and naivety have caused nothing but misery and unnecessary distress for the families of the residents, and her position is now untenable. She should go now, before she does more harm."

Coun Kemp told The GEM that Coun Hodges' remarks showed a lack of understanding of the matter.

"Following the decision to allow the current residents of Bryneithin to remain, I offered the leaders of the other groups on the council a briefing on that decision, to be given by myself, the cabinet member and the director.

"Unfortunately, Coun Hodges has not taken up that offer and this is reflected in his intemperate tirade in which he demonstrates a lack of understanding of the issues involved.

"The offer does, however, remain open to him.

"His attack on the scrutiny process ignores the fact that the scrutiny committee considered the matter fully on December 17, with a wide range of members, together with family members and other interested parties, speaking and putting their views strongly, including Coun Hodges.

"If he failed to raise issues then, that was a failure on his part and blame cannot be directed at the chair of the scrutiny committee."

Coun Kemp added: "Coun Williams, despite the impression given, did allow 'call-ins' resulting in the matter being considered and gave every opportunity to the one member of Coun Hodges' group who submitted requests to redraft them, so that they could be considered. Coun Williams has not received any complaints from that member, nor from Coun Hodges."

Minsgill Mans wins at Brecon

by BRIAN LEE

THE men's open race at the Brecon & Talybont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Llanfrynach last Saturday was won by Jonathon Tudor's *Minsgill Mans*, who under John Mathias, scored by two lengths from the even money favourite *Warsaw Pact* ridden by Rhys Hughes.

Trained by his owner at Merthyr Mawr and qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, *Minsgill Mans* was the second leg of a treble for Mathias, who was standing in for regular rider James Tudor, riding at the Beaufort Hunt races.

Mr Tudor said: "He's a lovely horse, but was out of form last season."

Simon Jones' six-year-old mare *Cutlass Silver*, trained by his daughter Lauren, took the first division of the maiden race coming home 12 lengths ahead of *Leprechan's Gold*.

Like *Minsgill Mans*, *Cutlass Silver*, ridden by Jody Sole, is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt.

Another Llangeinor horse which won was Norman Jones' *Kings Euro* who, partnered by Welsh champion Rhys Hughes, took the confined race winning by four lengths from *Sams Lad*.

Kings Euro was a first winner for William Vaughan, older brother of Aberthin's Tim Vaughan.

Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy's *On Oath* gave Hughes his second winner of the day when winning division two of the maiden by five lengths from *Plunge*.

The restricted race went to Keith Pritchard's *Chandlers Cross* who, ridden by John Mathias, got home by a neck from the pacemaking *Mr Cheetham,* who had led the field a merry dance.

The ladies' open race went to Peter Corbett's *Upton Legend*, whose task was made easier when the odds-on favourite *Cannon Bridge* unseated Isabel Tompsett early in the race.

All smiles

Kenfig Hill's Rhys Flint and Ogmore's Christian Williams had plenty to smile about recently.

Flint rode his first ever hat-trick under rules when winning on *Captain Chris* (15-8), *Whitewater Dash* (16-1) and *Superior Wisdom* (5-2) at Kempton Park.

The next day, at Huntingdon, Christian landed the first two races on *Haarth Sovereign* (evens) and *Talenti* (16-1).

Memories of air disaster



ABOVE:
The memorial at Sigingstone to the 80 people who died on March 12, 1950.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The aircraft had approached the aerodrome at low altitude, rose steeply, stalled, and then crashed into the field yards from the farm. There was no explosion.

Lydia added: "As a thank you for what my parents did that day, the survivors sent my mother and father international tickets every year."

Conservative regional Assembly Member Andrew RT Davies, who lives not far from the crash site, said:

"The Vale is now home to many aviation establishments, both at Cardiff Airport, and in St Athan. This disaster led to many safety improvements, which helped to safeguard the future of air travel.

"It is important that this event is not forgotten and that measures are taken to ensure that tragedies like this are never repeated."

As thousands of Welsh rugby fans made their way across to Dublin for the Ireland v Wales international last weekend, many of them will have spared a thought, on the 60th anniversary of the disaster, for those that lost their lives.

A memorial stone stands in the hamlet of Sigingstone to ensure that events of March 12, 1950 are never forgotten.

COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Hockey and rugby excel

Year-8 hockey

THE year-8 hockey team played in their annual preliminary hockey tournament against Whitchurch and Howells.

The final score was 0-0 against Whitchurch after some excellent work from Izzy Eddy Williams in defence and attack.

The next game was against Howells, where they scored two quick goals, making the score 2-0. Cowbridge did hold Howells in the second half, with great work from Izzy Eddy Williams, Hannah Woodward and Olivia Brown. There was also a great save by goalkeeper Emma Atkins and good defence work by Niamh Gallagher.

With a new astra turf next year, the year-8 team will hopefully improve and get to the finals in future years!

Year-10 hockey

THE year-10 hockey team played against Bro Morgannwg in the year-10 preliminary hockey tournament.

Cathedral and Bryn Hafren dropped out of the tournament, so Cowbridge played Bro Morgannwg, the winner going through to the finals.

In very cold snowy conditions, both teams did extremely well to play at such a good standard. Rachel Bradshaw scored first, after a week's training camp with Wales. Rachel's individual skill was consistent and she was able to beat most players one to one.

Bro Morgannwg came back in the second half, making the final score 1-1. With extra time, the intensity of the game increased, Rachel Bradshaw hit the post twice, and Bro Morgannwg had a good chance. After extra time a winning team was not decided, so both teams then went into the finals tournament with Glantaf and Plasmawr.

Cowbridge played Bro Morgannwg first and unfortunately, could not hold them off this time with a 2-0 win for Bro Morgannwg. Next up for Cowbridge was Plasmawr. Again it was another 2-0 game to Plasmawr. The last game was against Glantaf, who beat Cowbridge 4-0.

The Cowbridge team should be proud of their achievements - with no training facility and playing with raw talent only, the girls performed as best they could. Player of each match was the outstanding Rachel Bradshaw.

Team: Rachel Bradshaw, Romy Killick, Katie Wynne, Laura Howells, Sophie Gallagher, Sam Logue, Bronte Cowley, Coryn Sexton, Liz Whitehouse, Mairi Boxall, Emma Dando, Cara Smith, Lucie Johnson, Beatrice Hawker and Anna Leyshon.

Rugby

Congratulations go to Reuben Tucker of the sixth form, after he was called up to train with the Welsh under-18 rugby squad recently.

After an outstanding season for school and Cardiff Blues, Reuben fully deserves this opportunity. We wish him luck!

Firsts grab league win

THE school rugby 1st XV gained a hard fought 10-0 win over Treorchy at the Oval.

On a damp and muddy pitch, Cowbridge started well up front and piled on the pressure to take a three-point lead. The Cowbridge backline made some good breaks but could not finish opportunities.

Treorchy, coached by former senior coach Clive Williams, were well organised and looked dangerous in attack. Reuben Tucker made some good ground up front and Mike Lloyd kicked well to keep territory.

Second row Ben Smith suffered a chipped bone in the ankle after an incident in the lineout which put the Cowbridge pack under pressure.

However, as Treorchy piled on the attack, the Cowbridge boys defended well and a late breakaway try from Nick Davies sealed a good league win.

Year-9 rugby

YEAR-9 secured a comfortable 32-5 win over Barry in the semi-final of the Vale Cup.

In snowy conditions, the year-9 side performed well up front and coach Bob Lewis got the backline to slice through with some well planned moves.

Rhys Elms, Ieuan Morgan and James Whittington tackled well in defence while captain Harry Collier, Cameron O'Sullivan and Sam Wood made good yards up front.

The Barry side did not give up easily and the wet pitch tested the fitness levels of both teams. As year-9 booked themselves a place in the final, preparations will now turn to Sevens, as there are a number of important tournaments fast approaching.

Sports hall

In the annual sports hall athletics competition at Whitchurch, Cowbridge provided some excellent performances.

In the under-13 girls, the results included: *Olivia Brown – 35th/64 in the 2 lap, 24th/45 in the standing long jump, 24th/51 in the speed bounce; Sarah Lewis – 43rd/64 in the 2 lap, 3rd/38 in the standing triple jump; Izzy Eddie-Williams – 2nd/20 in the 4 lap, 4th/45 in the standing long jump, 4th/51 in the speed bounce; Niamh Gallagher – 5th/20 in the 4 lap, 10th/28 in the vertical jump, 10th/30 in the shot; Annabel Curle – 1st/38 in the standing triple jump, 4th/15 in the high jump; Hannah Woodward – 17th/28 in the vertical jump, 3rd/30 in the shot; Jordan Carpenter – 4th/15 in the high jump.*

Annabel Curle and Izzy Eddy-Williams were selected to represent Cardiff and the Vale at the Welsh Indoor Sports Hall Championships at Cwmbran on March 14.

In the under-15, the athletes had to compete in one of the 2 lap or 4 lap, standing long jump or vertical jump and shot or speed bounce.

In the overall placings Cowbridge had a win through Romy Killick – out of 52 came 3rd in the 2 lap, 5th/27 in the standing long jump and 1st/20 in the speed bounce; Molly Frost came 5th overall with performances in 5th/12 in the 4 lap, 3rd/25 in the vertical jump and 8th/28 in the shot; Miriam Bennett came 6th overall, 3rd/12 in the 4 lap, 8th/27 in the long jump, 5th/20 in the speed bounce; Katie Wynne was 7th overall. 8th/12 in the 4 lap, 7th/25 in the vertical jump and 3rd/28 in the shot; Rachel Bradshaw came 9th overall, 4th/12 in the 4 lap, 4th/27 in the long jump, and 11th/20 in the speed bounce; Mairi Boxall came 16th overall, 13th/40 in the 2 lap, 10th/25 in the vertical jump, and 7th/28 in the shot; Caitlin Allin came 17th overall, 4th/40 in the 2 lap, 24th/27 in the standing long jump, and 4th/20 in the speed bounce; Liz Whitehouse came 19th overall, 6th/40 in the 2 lap, 18th/25 in the vertical jump and 12th/28 in the shot; Melissa Gooding came 22nd overall, 30th/40 in the 2 lap, 2nd/27 in the long jump and 8th/20 in the speed bounce; Jessica Oliver came 32nd overall, 24th/40 in the 2 lap, 6th/27 in the long jump, and 23rd/28 in the shot; Nancie Edwards came 35th overall, 11th/40 in the 4 lap, 26th/27 in the standing long jump and 19th/20 in the speed bounce; Hannah Taylor came 47th overall, 38th/40 in the 2 lap, 22nd/27 in the speed bounce; Katie Munro came 50th overall, 9th/12 in the 4 lap, 23rd/27 in the long jump; Amy Wallis came 51st overall, 14th/40 in the 2 lap, and 25th/27 in the standing long jump.

Saints are poised in third place

THE latest standings in the Bridgend and District Sunday Football League, First Division, sees Boverton side Sunday Saints in third spot.

1, Athletico Tremains – 42; 2, Llangeinor – 34; 3, Sunday Saints – 30; 4, Saint Patrick Rovers – 26; 5, Tudor Taverners – 25.

The Saints' final home game of the season is on Sunday against Blaengarw (11am kick-off). The following Sunday, the Saints face undefeated league leaders Athletico Tremains in the First Division Cup semi-final at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend. All support is welcome.

Couple's travel show in music and pictures

BOVERTON WI NEWS

THE president welcomed everyone to a very full meeting, including two new members and Phillip and Enid Benyon, who were presenting a film show.

They are very keen cyclists and on their travels take beautiful photographs which they have blended together in a slide show and put to music.

The photographs ranged from flowers in the Botanic Gardens, through spectacular scenery and alpine flowers in the French Alps, to rape fields in the Vale, and an incredible amount of beautiful fungi in the local lanes.

The addition of the music was very relaxing and was enjoyed by everyone.

Joyce Bruton won the raffle.

The next meeting is on April 8 (Clairns' new look for spring).

New members will be very welcome.

• *Send your local news to The GEM at the address given on page 2.*

Why Vale needs a heritage centre

YOUR recent headline – '*Was King Arthur a Llantwit boy*?' raises a number of interesting points: as the article points out, a character, shrouded in the myths of time, such as Arthur, could be claimed by nearly every community in the British Isles.

But how about doing more with what we have already got in the Vale?

There are local initiatives in Llantwit Major and Cowbridge in the form of a small heritage centre and a museum.

There are plans to display the crosses in St Illtud's Church more effectively in the Galilee project. However, if the area is to attract visitors through its heritage and historical importance, it requires a more active and co-ordinated approach to tell a story which encompasses the whole Vale – and be of a size which would appeal to visitors seeking more than "Doctor Who" and "Gavin and Stacey."

That is why the proposal for a Vale Heritage Centre in Barry deserves the support of communities throughout the area, by putting into context the stories of towns such as Llantwit, Cowbridge, Penarth and Barry, who are able to document their heritage, alongside places such as Llancarfan and St Hilary, who cannot.

Nigel Williams, Llantwit Major

'Let the people buy the pleasure park'

THE announcement of £9 million investment in the future of Barry is welcome news (The GEM, March 4).

Some of the money is to be spent on "reviving and enhancing tourism", so I hope that the regeneration of Barry Island Pleasure Park is top of the list.

With the right investment and management, the pleasure park could be an all-weather, all-year round leisure and tourist attraction.

The people of Barry should be given the opportunity to buy the park, redevelop it and run it.

That would be an investment in the engine of the tourist economy which would keep giving back for years to come.

Andrew Bailey, Rhoose

THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM IS NOT YET READY FOR US!

WE live in a time where our government encourages us to use public transport by increasing the costs for ownership of vehicles, with the aim of making us all greener.

Three months ago, I gave up the second family car, which was more of a financial decision than a green one.

However, a part of me did feel good that I was contributing in some way to a cleaner environment for my five-year-old son, who will in fact be a new generation with awareness of a cleaner culture.

I work in Cardiff and catch the Bridgend to Aberdare train from Llantwit Major to Queen Street each day.

My experience of the past three months as a customer with Arriva trains is that the trains have been cancelled four times, terminated on route once, having to change trains at Cardiff central four times and many times have just been late.

I am very fortunate that with my employment as a production engineer, I am able to be flexible with my time, so if I am late due to Arriva's delays, or just not turning up, I can work off the time in other hours.

The majority of employers monitor staff in turning up on time, which makes it impossible for people to give up cars and turn to public transport, running the risk of losing their job.

Having worked in a quality position for many years for Japanese companies, who thrive on continuous improvement and putting customers first, I now find it unacceptable myself to receive poor customer service from others.

So much so, that I have asked for explanations of delays and refunds as compensation, which Arriva has done. I think that Arriva accepts this as an every day part of public transport.

One thing Arriva are very good at is poor communication when delays or cancellations occur.

They will tell you that the next train is available and on time, when they are not sure themselves.

The intercoms at Llantwit station do not work, which sums up that Arriva cannot supply accurate information to the public.

I am sure that I am not the only one to feel angry and frustrated with having to accept second best from our public transport. I urge the public to apply for refunds and compensation from Arriva every time they are delayed or cancelled. They can do so via the Arriva website, or ask for a customer comment form at any station.

For those of you who are thinking of using public transport as an alternative to going green, I would suggest that you experience it first before giving up the car, or you could just get left out in the cold.

Mark Kirkham, St Athan

Horse manure: risk of disease

IT is Sian Lewis and not Leanne Sokolski who doesn't know what she is talking about when it comes to the potential dangers of horse manure (last week's GEM letters).

As any gardener worth their salt could tell you, fresh horse manure CAN carry disease. When the manure is used in the garden, it is broken down (and becomes compost) and is no longer harmful to humans or to crops.

I suggest Sian Lewis gets her facts straight in future before so rudely attacking others.

Mr H Matthews, Dinas Powys

Rush to shovel up the manure!

JUST a few lines to add perhaps a little humour to the ongoing saga of horses and dogs in The GEM letters columns.

I am 91 years old, London-born, and lived in a quiet residential street of terraced houses.

There were very few cars or vans in the early 1920s, but plenty of horse-drawn carts.

It was nothing unusual, if a cart was seen coming along the street, for several housewives to come rushing out holding a bucket and shovel, hoping to shovel up some 'droppings' and even squabble over who was there first!

Each house had a small back garden and the manure was precious.

There's a thought for a nice summer's day!

Mrs Eve Balfour, Llanblethian

Red kite seen

DID anyone else see the red kite over Primrose Hill last Saturday (March 13) around mid-day?

It was cruising just above hedge-height and circled our garden for about a minute before flying on.

Martin Tomlinson, Cowbridge

'Get serious about litter'

I HAVE read with interest some of the recent letters in The GEM concerning litter, and totally agree with GJ Taylor of Ystradowen.

Litter is definitely a problem in the Vale (as it is in many areas around the UK).

So why don't we take a 'zero tolerance' approach, put clear signs up and fine the culprits heavily – as in other countries?.

The hard-working people who have to pick up litter are obviously commendable – but maybe we should not do this for a period of time and allow everyone to see how quickly the litter will build up and how much of a problem we have.

On Sunday, March 7, I saw how much litter was on the playing fields near the local leisure centre – clearly dropped by people over the last couple of weeks, as I had seen the area 'litter-picked' just a few weeks previously.

It may not be the most serious issue facing us at the moment, but it is an annoying example of the slovenly attitude of 'chav UK'.

Consider how much money is spent by the council cleansing department, which could be allocated elsewhere, along with the income from fines! Let's get serious, for goodness sake.

Andrew Smith, Maendy

Litter: just who is to blame?

I HAVE been following the letters in The GEM about the litter problem in the Vale, as I also hate the sight of it and feel it should be cleared up far more often than it seems to be.

I would like to take this a step further: I get so frustrated when farmers or land-owners cut their hedges, but leave all the debris littering the roads or pathways.

This is most obvious on Primrose Hill and alongside Cotterell Park Golf Club, but it is also present elsewhere.

Who is responsible for clearing this up? Is it the highways, or the person responsible for the mess?

I believe that people should be made to clear up after themselves, but understand that care must be taken when using the highways.

Also, this debris doesn't help with drainage in heavy rain, and can cause water to flow across the roads, due to blocked drains.

I did contact the council last year about Primrose Hill, but just got the usual "*it will be passed on*" message, but nothing was done.

Perhaps a bit of publicity will bring the problem to the council's notice!

P Williams, Cowbridge

No respect for the community

I HOPE the community of Barry and tourists did not rise early on Mother's Day and stroll down the Knap to enjoy the wonderful fresh weather and beautiful scenery.

If they did, they would have been confronted with bottles of alcohol lying across the breadth of the promenade and the lake.

Broken glass was everywhere, bins vandalised and plastic bags thrown into the water.

From about 7pm the night before, over 50 young people, aged 12-18, were gathered at the Knap (the nucleus was at the skate board park).

OK, so there was a little bit of noise and debauchery, but they are young and I saw no reason to ring the authorities.

However, this group had little respect for where they live or the community around them.

Rest assured, next time any sort of gathering starts to appear, I will be contacting the police.

As always, the actions of one group spoils enjoyment for the others.

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Plaid Cymru Assembly Member South Wales Central



ADVICE SURGERY

WHEN: Friday 26th March

WHERE: Methodist Church Hall, Albert Road, Penarth

TIME: 2.00-3.00pm

NEWS IN AND OUT OF CLASS AT LLANCARFAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

'My Country' theme of pupils' patriotic day



ABOVE: St David's Day singing and dancing

LLANCARFAN Primary School held an eisteddfod to celebrate St David's Day with pupils taking part in competitions centred around the theme, 'My Country'.

Pupils were asked to use their own imagination to come up with photographs or 3D models which they felt represented their country.

There was a winner in each year group, with every entry receiving house points for their team.

Instrumentalists were invited to play a piece either accompanied or unaccompanied, and the deserved winner was year-6 pupil Madison Garland, who performed 'Allegro Gracio'.

Another category, for pupils wanting to learn a poem or song either in Welsh or with a Welsh theme, saw Connor Stratton from year-4 win, beautifully reading his own composition, 'Being Welsh'.

The final competition was the poetry writing and the winning bard was Adam Jackson from year-6, whose poem was entitled 'My Country'.

To further celebrate the day, pupils came to school in traditional Welsh costume.

A great time was had by all and the winning house was Baruc.

Congratulations to pupils and staff for their part in making it such a successful and memorable day.



Pupils performing for the school.

Purple pinkie day

Pupils at Llancarfan Primary School have been getting colourful to raise money for worthy causes.

Pupils recently supported Purple Pinkie Day by coming to school dressed in a myriad of pinks and purples to raise awareness of the work being done to eliminate polio.

The president of Cowbridge Rotary Club, Colin Jones, visited Llancarfan Primary, together with treasurer, Bernard Robinson, to give pupils an insight into the Cowbridge Rotary PolioPlus Programme, which is supporting the effort to raise $200million over the next few years to prevent the disease.

During the day, pupils and staff had a finger painted purple to highlight the campaign and in total have raised £335.75 for the programme.

Continuing the colour theme, pupils also raised a fantastic £490 to purchase a Shelter box for victims of the Haiti disaster by wearing spots to school. The proceeds of their weekly toast collection and Valentine's disco were also added to the total amount.

Acting headteacher, Huw Lewis, commented: "These are fantastic achievements and pupils should feel very proud of themselves.

"Fundraising days such as these give pupils the opportunity, not only to help make a difference to those less fortunate, but also to learn some important life skills."

For more information about Llancarfan Primary, contact the school on 01446 781375.

SH



ABOVE: You put your right pinkie in...



ABOVE: Showing those pinkies to raise awareness of the work being done to eliminate polio.

CALLING ALL EX-TEACHERS!

A MEETING is to be held on April 15 from 10.15am-12.15pm, to arrange a programme of meetings and outings for retired Vale teachers.

Anyone interested in meeting old friends and colleagues, can meet for coffee at the Old Hall, Cowbridge.

For further details, contact either Chris Hutchinson on 01446 774161, or Joy Woodward on 07977 701713.

FASHION HISTORY FITTED OUT FROM TOP TO TOE!

LLANBLETHIAN WI members met on Thursday evening and were entertained by Mrs Rosemary Scadden, who gave an informative talk on the history of fashion 'from top to toe'.

LLANBLETHIAN WI branch news

Hats, shoes, outer clothing and the aptly-named 'foundation garments' of our ancestors were explained with reference to social status and practicality, with interesting contributions from the long memories of our members.

This kind of information is always of interest to the Women's Archive of Wales, a national collection of women's diaries, scrapbooks, letters, which works with the National Library of Wales to make personal historical relics accessible to the public.

Members were urged by Mrs Scadden to consider the Archive when clearing out old photographs, newspaper cuttings and the like.

The sports report was encouraging: It seems Llanblethian acquitted themselves well in the WI darts competition, trouncing Penllyn ladies, though ultimately failing to win the cup.

A team is now being formed for the croquet competition and golfers were advised to start waxing their clubs (or whatever it is that golfers do to prepare for battle).

In this month's ACWW competition, first prize was won by Barbara James's iron rooster, emblem of her favourite team Tottenham Hotspur.

The April meeting will feature willow weaving at 7.30pm on April 8 in the Church Hall, Llanblethian.

The Cowbridge under-10s clinch Blues Cup victory

Cowbridge under-10s played at Rhiwbina in the quarter final of the Blues Cup.

An extremely difficult encounter was expected, as the team had been soundly beaten in the home fixture earlier in the season.

However, Rhiwbina settled the quicker and from their first real phase of possession released their winger. The Cowbridge tackling was poor and the flyer opened the scoring. The try was converted.

Cowbridge came back and the ball was moved wide and the impressive Rhys Bradshaw and Bevan Howells both made incisive breaks. With the ball 10 metres from the Rhiwbina line, scrum-half Ioan Lewis threw a sublime dummy and raced over. Jake Griffiths added the conversion.

Both sides were attempting to move the bal but there were a number of knock ons and dropped passes from both sides.

The commitment however was not in question, as forwards and backs alike drove at their opposite numbers. Max Lucas, Sam Corkill, Dan Taylor, Jac Roberts and Jake Griffiths continually made ground with the ball in hand.

As the half-time whistle approached, Rhiwbina pressured the Cowbridge line out, turned over possession and scored. The successful conversion gave a half time score of **Rhiwbina 14 Cowbridge 7.**

The second half began with Cowbridge applying the early pressure. Rhiwbina, were superb in defence and also extremely dangerous on the counter attack.

From their first visit to the Cowbridge half, they moved the ball quickly to the wing for a converted try.

The visitors then threw everything in to attack, as they desperately tried to hit back. However, the ball was spilled in contact and moved quickly to the Rhiwbina wing who outstripped the Cowbridge defence and appeared to be racing to a certain score before Luke Beattie, covering from the opposite wing, hammered him in to touch.

In a carbon copy minutes later, Rhys Bradshaw also covered superbly to deny the opposition. These would prove to be defining moments, as the game moved in to the last five minutes.

First, the Cowbridge pack then linked well and fed Bevan Howells in the centre. The Cowbridge pack supported and Dan Taylor drove over to narrow the gap. Jake Griffiths converted and the lead was just seven points.

As the final minute approached, play was around half-way. The ball was carried towards the touch line and the Cowbridge forwards worked wonders to recycle the ball. A quick pass then released Evan Williams and the flying winger raced away to score a fantastic try from 40 metres.

The responsibility then fell to Jake Griffiths to kick the conversion and level the scores and Jake duly obliged!

As the away side, Cowbridge would go through in the event of a draw, and they turned over Rhiwbina's next possession to do so, securing a great comeback.

DEVELOPMENT SIDE

The development sides then took to the field. Rhiwbina applied all the early pressure and quickly raced in to a 14-0 lead.

Cowbridge came back and the forwards, led superbly by Cameron Roy, Dan Marshall, Max Cunnington and William Davies recycled good ball for the impressive Liam Murphy to score a try, which he converted.

James Guard and Tom Coates were dangerous with ball in hand, and Olly Reynolds and Ellis Bird were heavily involved in the Cowbridge effort.

Early in the second half, Tom Jose offloaded to the outstanding Cameron Roy who presented the ball perfectly and Tom Coates touched down for a fantastic score. James Guard added the conversion.

Rhiwbinabegan to move the ball wide to bypass the Cowbridge forwards. Gaps appeared and the home side added four unanswered converted tries to leave the final score **Rhiwbina 42 Cowbridge 14.**

Our huge thanks and appreciation to Rhiwbina for their warm welcome and hospitality. In particular to the Rhiwbina boys, who are an outstanding group of players bristling with individual talent.

Full squad; Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Taylor, Dan Marshall, Ellis Bird, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Liam Murphy, Luke Beattie, Max Cunnington, Max Lucas, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Under-12s at Aberavon Greenstars

Cowbridge under-12s kept their winning streak going with a win against the Greenstars.

They got off to a great start with a third-minute try from Ben Jones, who drove over from the back of a ruck on the Greenstar's try line.

Within five minutes, the impressive Liam Sloane finished a wonderful backs move after Tom Lucas and Ashford Thomas broke through the Aberavon midfield. Jonny Harvey put over the conversion.

Aberavon then poached a try – much to the chagrin of coach Ed Lucas – bringing the score to 12 - 5.

With Ed's words ringing in the team's ears, Frazz McGhan went on one of his bullocking runs to crash over the line. Jonny Harvey converted.

This was followed by a fantastic run by Ben Jones, who ran through the Aberavon defence from his own 22 line before sprinting in for a superb try.

The half time score was 25 - 5, but the second period was more evenly contested and will be remembered for innumerable penalties being given against the Cowbridge pack, and a lot of dropped ball by the backs.

Final score Aberavon 5, Cowbridge 24.

Full Squad :- Cai Thomas Jenkins, Owain Thomas Jenkins, Josh Brace, George Thomas, Jac Davies, Tom Whitehouse, Luke John, Tom Evans, Ben Jones, Frazz McGhan, Rob David, Hywel Williams, Ashford Thomas, Jonny Harvey, Liam Sloane, Gabriel Newham, Rian Thomas, Harvey Stockford, Matt Harper, Tom Lucas, Dominic Cook, Miles Davies and Craig Boxall.

UNDER-7s

In only their second home fixture of the season Cowbridge under-7s played Pontypridd and secured their first win.

In perfect running rugby conditions, the boys came together as a team, at last defending and attacking in a line, talking to each other and backing each other up.

The teams were trading scores from the time Ioan Davies opened the scoring with a touch line sprint after a good turnover from Aled Leitch.

Finally, the Cowbridge boys pulled ahead with David Harris finishing off a fine team effort and Dewi Bebb showing great determination in outflanking the defence for the final score.

An excellent game between two genuine under 7 teams played in a great spirit and with no little talent on display.

Final score Cowbridge 11 Pontypridd 9.

Try scorers :- Ioan Davies, Oliver Jarmaine (two), Charlie Lock (two), Harri Howkins, Iestyn Owen (two), Ben Farrell, David Harris, Dewi Bebb.

ML

DEMENTIA PROTEST PETITION AT SENEDD



Mr and Mrs Cummins, Mr and Mrs Jones and Denise and Michael Stephens hand in the petition at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay.

VALE AM Jane Hutt has been handed a protest petition about services provided for people who experience early on-set dementia.

She said she welcomed their petition against funding cuts which will affect the services and commented: "I am glad residents and carers who use this important service have come to the Senedd to meet Assembly Members and to tell us directly about their lives and how the service has helped them.

"I have already made my representations about this service and will be meeting the petitioners again to help find a way forward."

MOZART'S GREAT MASS

ON Sunday, March 21 at 7.30pm in St Augustine's church, Penarth, Cantermus Chamber Choir, Wales, directed by Robert Court, will perform Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor, with St Augustine's chamber orchestra and soloists from Cardiff International Academy of Voice, established at Cardiff University by Welsh tenor Dennis O'Neill.

Also taking part are Claire Egan and Vivienne Hassell (sopranos), David Fortey (tenor) and Njabulo Madlala (baritone).

Welsh ambulance chief decides to step down

'I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE TAKEN THE TRUST AS FAR AS I CAN...'

ALAN MURRAY, the chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, is to step down at the end of March.

Mr Murray said: "During the past three and a half years, we have been able to implement wide-ranging changes, leading to significant progress in improving our performance.

"Nurses are triaging less serious 999 calls and resolving almost three-quarters of them on the phone.

"The first-ever university-educated paramedics will graduate in August. Our first specialist practitioners are now operational, seeing and treating many more people in their own homes, keeping them out of hospital.

"While strong foundations have been laid for the future, a lot of hard work remains to be done.

He added: "I am proud of what our staff have achieved, but I believe that I have taken the Trust as far as I can. It is a high profile, high pressure job and I believe the time has now come to pass the baton to someone new.

"I want to thank everybody who works for the Welsh Ambulance Service, staff and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. They fully deserve the confidence and admiration of the people of Wales."

Stuart Fletcher, the chairman of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, said: "I would like to thank Alan for his important contribution during a crucial period in the history of the Welsh Ambulance Service.

"Our performance has improved considerably since he took the reins in 2006.

"He is the main architect of our comprehensive modernisation programme 'Time to Make a Difference' which has provided us with an excellent strategy to improve the service.

"We will conduct a careful search to find a successor who can take the Welsh Ambulance Service forward to the next level, in terms of our progress, and create an organisation of which Wales can be proud."

Children's Commissioner joins in praising work of 'inspiring' young people

CHILDREN'S Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, was the keynote speaker at Vale AM Jane Hutt's ninth spring breakfast at Barry college.

He praised the young people from Vale school councils, who spoke about their activities.

The Children's Commissioner said that young people are making a huge contribution in their schools and communities.

They should get a good press and recognition of their hard work and commitment, as supported by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Ms Hutt, who hosted the breakfast, said: "I invited the Vale Youth Forum and school councils from across my constituency to the spring breakfast .

"They told us about their important work in promoting pupil participation in school life, including fundraising for charity, fair trade and Eco activities.

"Georgia Mitchell from Gibbonsdown Youth Forum spoke about their involvement in Gibbonsdown Communities First, and Nigel Streeter introduced himself as the new Vale Youth Forum Coordinator.

"It was an inspiring event, with an excellent breakfast prepared by the students at Barry College.

"I would like to thank them and the staff for their help in organising this wonderful celebration of our young people."



Jane Hutt AM with Children's Commissioner Keith Towler and pupils from St Richard Gwyn school and Gibbonsdown Youth Forum.

SPRING PLAY

THE Potato Street Players spring production is the second of a set of three plays – The Norman Conquest by Alan Ayckbourn at Wick Village Hall on March 24, 25 and 26 at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5, available on 01656 890382 or 890320.

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Time to 'wake up on subject of litter

by GEM reader DAVID ALEXANDER



Jackson's Bay as it should be.

MUCH has been said in recent weeks in The GEM about the problem of litter in the Vale.

In his reply to criticism of the council's efforts to clear up litter, Clifford Parish said: "It is with regret I assure GEM readers that the vast amount of litter on our streets is generated by members of the public."

No doubt, as a representative of the local council Mr Parish feels, quite rightly, that he must express himself with a degree of tact.

The real truth is that it is high time we faced the facts of life and asked what sort of area we want to live in.

The local council it seems is 'piggy in the middle' and is damned if it does and damned if it doesn't. If the litter isn't cleared, it's the council's fault. If it is cleared, then the local authority gets criticised for overspending on one particular problem to the neglect of others.

We are all missing the point here.

It is not the fault of the local council that people, visitors and locals alike, leave an unmanageable amount of litter behind them.

The simple truth is that we live in a time in which a significant number of people have great difficulty in thinking beyond their own immediate interests without any thought for consequences of the rest of the world in general.

It is those people who are the problem more than the litter they create.

It is those people who create the problem and those people who have to choose whether they want to be the problem or the solution.

We are blessed to live here. Barry is a beautiful spot with the best of everything – big city, countryside and spectacular coast – all on the doorstep.

We all have a responsibility to look after it. Look out of the train window as you travel to Cardiff – what do you see? Litter. Walk the streets, what do you see? Discarded lager cans, take away food packaging cigarette butts, chewing gum – litter. Go to the beach what do you find? Litter, despite the council's valiant efforts.

On several occasions since I moved to Barry five years ago, I have been incensed at the litter left on our beautiful beaches. All of that litter is unsightly, a significant amount of it, glass bottles are an obvious example, is dangerous. That litter is left by people.

Those people are intelligent enough to command sufficient income to enable them to afford to buy good food from the supermarket. They are discerning enough to enjoy a bottle of good wine.

Somehow, however, the simple commonsense expedient of picking up the empty cartons, packaging, lager cans and wine bottles, putting it in the plastic bags so kindly provided by the supermarket and disposing of it properly (all of it is recyclable) is quite beyond their intelligence.

As you can see, the photographs which illustrate my point were taken on Jackson's Bay which is frequented more by locals than visitors.

The problem of litter goes far beyond what some might regard as a petty local matter. It is rapidly becoming a world problem.

A classic example is Laysan, a 960-acre island about 1,000 miles northwest of Honolulu.

When this island, one of the most remote in the world, was visited by an American team of biologists, it was found not to be the pristine paradise they expected but strewn with an unbelievable variety of plastic rubbish.

The US team catalogued thousands of pellets, as well as toy soldiers, disposable lighters and one toy Godzilla – all made of plastic.

That plastic was killing seabirds and other creatures, who mistook it for something to eat.

That plastic had been dropped on beaches like ours and carried thousands of miles across the sea by the tides. What local council clears that up?

It is 'wake up' time. If the remotest islands in the world are, almost literally, disappearing under a sea of plastic litter, what chance does a little place like Barry, frequented by so many people, have – unless those people change?



Picnickers – discerning people who enjoy a good bottle of wine left this...

Forum marks Women's Day in Barry

MEMBERS of the Vale Older People's Strategy Forum (OPF met Jane Hutt AM to celebrate International Women's Day at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry.

The occasion sees women of all ages come together in their struggle for justice and equal rights. They are often divided by ethnic, cultural and political differences.

"We would like to thank everyone concerned for an excellent presentation, making it a very informative day," said Winnie Davies, spokeswoman for the forum.



ABOVE:
Rene Gannon and Lynda Wallis (both OPF), Jane Hutt AM, Audrey Jones and Winnie Davies (OPF).

Gardening Club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 7.30pm in the lesser hall, at the Town Hall, when the talk will be on 'Attracting Birds to your Garden" by Mr Martin Humphries.

New members are welcome.

Prince Harry backs 'Friends of the Forces' national awards

A NATIONAL awards scheme to recognise members of the public who provide exceptional support to the British Armed Forces was launched last week in south Wales by the Royal British Legion, with support from Prince Harry.

A lieutenant with the Household Cavalry (Blues and Royals) he served in Afghanistan with the British Army for more than two months.

"For those serving in the British Armed Forces, the knowledge that others are thinking of them has a hugely positive effect that cannot be underestimated. I remember that very acutely," the Prince added.

Claire Williams, the Royal British Legion's manager for south Wales, invited members of the public to step forward with nominations:

"The Friends of the Forces Awards will say thank you to anyone in south Wales who has contributed materially to the well-being or appreciation of our Armed Forces.

"We hear of so many amazing acts of kindness and support that we strongly urge people to submit south Wales area nominations for these exciting new awards."

Winners will be chosen in categories recognising individual, young individual, community group and commercial organisation contributions.

They will then be announced in eight regions covering Wales, England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Those shortlisted for the national awards will attend a royal gala ceremony in London in July.

For more information or to apply, visit www.friendsoftheforces.org.uk or contact 0845 363 1478.

Recycling scheme expands in Vale

JUST over a third of homes in the Vale (20,000) are now covered by the Vale Council's kerbside kitchen waste recycling scheme, a spokesman reported

The whole of Penarth and Dinas Powys is now covered, and existing 'kitchen waste' areas - Barry Island, St Athan and camp, Sully and Lavernock - have also been joined by the villages of Michaelston le Pit and Leckwith.

"Since the scheme's launch when 7,500 homes were involved, the council has collected more than 665 tonnes of kitchen waste - equivalent to more than 50 red double decker buses - for recycling from kerbside caddies," he revealed.


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Speaker's gain success in Rotary competition



Cowbridge Comprehensive 'Youth Speaks' team show off their certificates.

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive sent its winning 'Youth Speaks' team to the next round at Crickhowell – the Rotary South Wales District junior competition.

Six teams competed and although the Cowbridge team did not win, Anna Wynne was chosen as best individual proposer.

Darts tables

LATEST league tables in the Llantwit Major Darts League are as follows:

A League

Kings head	78
Golden Cups	74
Kings Head 2	69
Blacksmiths Arms 1	64
Rugby Club	64
Shoes Peterston	63
Wenvoe Arms	59
Kings Cup	55
Four Bells	51
Lamb & Flag	51
Fox & Hounds	36
Blacksmiths Arms 2	32

C League

Shoes Marcross	103
Lamb & Flag	91
Kings Cup	87
Kings Head 1	79
Farmers Arms	75
Carpenters Arms	65
Kings Head 2	45
Rugby Club	36

CYLCH'S BIG THANK YOU!

MAY I, on behalf of the children and parents of Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen, thank everyone who organised and supported the rugby forum which took place on Thursday, March 4, at The Bear Hotel.

It was a wonderful evening of dinner, dancing and entertainment, the highlight being the Rugby forum, chaired expertly by Alun Wyn Bevan, at which diners were able to ask questions of four international rugby stars – Stephen Jones, Simon Easterby, Marc Jones and David Lyons.

We were guided through the evening by glamorous presenter Sarra Elgan, and all danced the night away to the singing talent of Karen Elli.

This fundraising event was generously supported by Barclays Bank and many local businesses, who donated raffle prizes and lots for the auction.

We thank them all for their contributions, which (at the time of writing) we estimate has enabled us to raise an astonishing £8,000.

This will enable Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen to provide further equipment to enhance the learning experiences of our children.

Many thanks to all who contributed their time, hard work, expertise and talents to this event.

Mared Furnham
(Chair, Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen committee)

Young musicians show off their virtuosity in Rotary Club competition

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School played host to this year's Young Musician competition, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Llantwit Major.

There were six competitors taking part this year, all of whom are students at Cowbridge Comprehensive.

The audience was treated to a wide variety of music played by accomplished young instrumentalists. Rosanna Forte (violin) was placed third with her programme of Elgar's *Chanson de Matin* and *Adoration* composed by Felix Barowski.

Hannah Ballinger, a clarinettist, played *Sarabande* by Gravolez and *Romance* by Edward German.



The competitors.

Another clarinettist, Catrin Howells performed the 3rd movement of Dimler's *Clarinet Concerto* and the *Study in C minor* by C Rose.

Pianist Jade O'Leary performed Einaudi's *Le Onde* and in complete contrast, a boogie woogie piece *Willie Wagglestick's Walkabout* by Brian Bonsor.

Hanna Clist came second in the competition on the cello playing Faure's *Romance* followed by Chopin's *Scherzo* from the 2nd movement of one of his Sonatas.

The first prize went to Sara Friel who played Francis Poulenc's *Cantilena* from his Flute Sonata and Ian Clarke's *Sunstreams*.



First prize winner.

Sara won through to the following round of the Rotary District competition at Atlantic College on March 24, featuring young instrumentalists sponsored by Rotary clubs in Briton Ferry, Neath, Maesteg, Bridgend, Porthcawl, the Swansea Valley, Port Talbot and Llantwit Major.

TC

Author passes on tips

TO celebrate World Book Day on March 4, Welsh author Phil Carradice was invited to visit Llancarfan Primary School for the day.

He has written a number of well-known books, including *Hannah Goes to War*, *The Bosun's Secret* and *Black Bart's Treasure*, together with a number of non-fiction and poetry books.

Pupils had the opportunity of working with the Welsh author to get some top tips on creative writing and to discuss their favourite books.

They were also allowed to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book.

Barry paedophile is jailed for abuse

Report by A J SICLUNA

A JOBLESS Barry paedophile has been jailed for two years and four months at Cardiff Crown Court for sexually abusing two girls.

William Chalmers (49) a married man, with no previous convictions, of Burns Crescent, Barry, behaved in "an appalling way", said Judge Philip Richards.

He said the extent to which he had damaged the two girls was "immense".

Chalmers admitted seven offences involving committing acts of gross indecency and indecent asault on the two victims when they were aged from 10 to 12.

Prosecutor Lucy Crowther said the offences occurred in the early 1990s in the Vale of Glamorgan area.

Both girls, she said, had received counselling.

Chalmers had told one of them that what he was doing was "normal behaviour" and he encouraged her not to say anything to anybody.

His counsel, Ruth Smith, said Chalmers had had behavioural problems since the age of five, and had received a special needs education.

Ms Smith added: "He wishes to publicly apologise, he is truly sorry. Fortunately, the girls had gone on to have successful lives."

The judge told him: "You thought only of your own sexual gratification. They have suffered tremendously, and it would be unthinkable to pass any sentence other than immediate imprisonment."

He was ordered on release to register as a sex offendee for 10 years and he was banned from working with children for life.

We welcome your news and views. Please email them to : ***ggem@internet-today.co.uk***

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St David's primary pupils remember their patron saint with patriotic songs (and dress!)

ON March 1, children from St David's Church in Wales Primary celebrated St David's Day with their very own eisteddfod and they dressed up in Welsh costume.

The costumes ranged from the traditional to the contemporary.

Each class performed an item. There was a variety of singing, poetry, Welsh conversations and folk dancing. Children had the opportunity to enter many competitions and the judges commented on the very high standard of entries.

There were also individual musical performances in which the instruments included the flute, electric guitar, violin and guitar.

The climax of the afternoon was the 'chairing of the Bard' Maya Bell, a pupil in year-6 was awarded this prestigious title for her modern-day poem describing Wales in the future.

A great day was had by all. *Mae llawer o hwyl!*

C JONES
(Welsh co-ordinator)



Year-1 singing about 'Y Tywydd'!



Violinists Flo Wellard and Patrick Sheppard show their skill.



Bard winner Maya Bell, year-6.



Sam Clarke plays 'Mae hen wlad' on the saxophone.



Year-3 pupils singing 'Proud to be Welsh'.



The four winners of best Welsh costume.

NEWS IN BRIEF...NEWS IN BRIEF...

Vale AM's surgery

VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member Jane Hutt, will be holding surgeries this Saturday (March 20) at The Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major from 10am-11am; and at the Old School Hall, Church Lane, St Athan from 11.30am-12noon.

Contact the constituency office on 01446 740981 for further information.

Volunteer surgeries

THE Vale Volunteer Bureau is hosting advice surgeries on March 23 at The Gathering Place, St Athan (10am-12pm) at Penarth leisure centre (4pm-6pm); and then again on March 24 at Cowbridge Library (1pm-3pm).

For further information, contact Joe on 01446 421782, or visit www.vvb.org.uk

MAYOR'S COFFEE FOR CHARITY

VALEPLUS, the Vale-based charity that provides lifelong learning and leisure opportunities for people with a learning disability, is holding a coffee morning on March 23, at 10.30am hosted by Coun Emlyn Williams, the Mayor of the Vale in the Civic Offices, Barry.

Stalls include a cake stall, gifts, toiletries, goods from NOVA, the ValePlus shop and a raffle. Tickets £1.50, available in advance from ValePlus, Nova (telephone 01446 746691) or they can be bought at the door.

TONIGHT:
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Thursday, March 18th at 7.30pm
Tickets £5 per person (pay at the door); Bar, Raffle & Plant Sale; For pre-booked tickets, phone: 01446 774030 or book on-line
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www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Local golf club gets Ryder Cup windfall

WELSH golfer and tour professional, Sion Bebb will be returning to his home golf club tomorrow Friday, March 19, to mark the opening of the new indoor facility at Llantrisant and Pontyclun Golf Club, funded by the Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund.

The project, which has received a financial boost of £27,940 towards total project costs, has seen the creation of a new indoor teaching area with practice nets and putting area.

The Ryder Cup Wales Legacy Fund is a £2m investment into grassroots golf, provided by the Welsh Assembly Government, as part of the winning 2010 Ryder Cup bid.

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Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Good luck!



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Grant scheme helps sports clubs expand

MORE than £42,000 has been invested in community sport and physical activity in the Vale during the last year thanks to a special grants scheme.

The Community Chest scheme, agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from the Vale Council's sports and play development team and the Sports Council for Wales, benefited 51 local sports clubs and organisations during 2009-10.

Grants up to the maximum £1,000 were awarded. A number of new clubs were set up thanks to the grants, while sports ranging from boxing to boccia, and cricket to canoeing, were all boosted by funding which went towards buying new equipment, sports hall hire and improving coaching standards.

The Vale Council's sports and play development manager, Karen Davies, said: "It is pleasing to see that a growing number of the applicants for grants this year were community groups and workplaces, not just established sports clubs, and I hope that even more get in touch with proposals during the next year."

The most recent round of Community Chest grants, which brought the year to an end, saw 18 clubs and organisations receiving a share of £15,147.69. Among those awarded the maximum £1,000 grant were Dinas Powys Cricket Club, who will be expanding junior membership, and Llantwit Major Tae Kwon Do Club, who will be buying a wide range of new equipment.

If you are part of a Vale-based organisation, club or workplace and would like to discuss a potential Community Chest application, contact Karen Davies on 01446 704793 or request an application form by calling Julie Morgan on 01446 704748.



The Colcot Boxing Club in Barry were among 51 Vale-based sports clubs, organisations and workplaces that received Community Chest grants last year.

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Australian Rules Football heads to Vale

AUSTRALIAN Rules Football – the principles of the game are evident from the name right? Football?

"Well, not exactly," explains Nick Baker, the president of the Vale Warriors, the Vale's newly established Australian Rules Football team.

"There is some kicking involved, but the similarity ends there. We play with an oval-shaped ball which is carried, kicked, bounced and 'handed-off' to other players, so I guess rugby would be the closest match, although it is a different game entirely."

2010 will be the inaugural year for the Vale Warriors, and the Welsh Australian Rules Football League (WARFL) now has five teams competing for the 2010 Welsh title.

Training for the season starts in March, with the league games running throughout the summer and various other tournaments and international series leading through to the beginning of the rugby season again at the end of the year.

The Vale Warriors are based at Barry RFC and are hoping to attract new players from all over the Vale.

Although all five teams at present are men's teams, WARFL are keen to hear from anyone 16-plus interested in playing regardless of sex or capability.

If you are interested in playing or have any questions, visit the website at: www.warfl.co.uk or contact president Nick Baker: nick.baker@warfl.co.uk, 07887 524 661, or coach David Morgan-Kane 07805 838 933

ALL FISHED OUT!

FEBRUARY ended as it began for the Sea View Lads anglers - with few fish!

The final match held on the 28th was embarrassing, with a mere 12oz winning top honours.

The remaining top six anglers relied on solitary tiddlers, mostly rockling, to avoid blanking.

March will be much better and we await the first dogfish with unheard of enthusiasm.

At least we have the social activities and trips to look forward too!

March 28: 1st R.Bond. 0.12ozs. pout; 2nd R Green. 0.11ozs. slug,s/h rockling; 3rd A Harris. 0.10ozs. slug; 3rd W.Taylor. 0.10ozs. whitting; 5th E.Collins. 0.06ozs. s/h rockling; 6th J.Wyatt. 0.04ozs. s/h rockling.

CALLING ALL CLUBS!

*The GEM welcomes your match reports, and other club items of interest. Email: **ggem@internet-today.co.uk** or post to: The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL*

Bryn Hafren comprehensive school triumphant in Rotary Youth Speaks contest!



A delighted Angela Burd.



Rosie-Loup James, Lili-Beth James and Hannah Parker receive the senior trophy from Gerry Foy, president of Cardiff Bay Rotary Club.

BRYN HAFREN Comprehensive. as winners of the junior and senior competition, represented Barry to find the best debaters in Cardiff and the Vale at a Rotary Youth Speaks competition held in Cardiff Bay.

The junior team of Aimee Delaney, Lis sie Wallington, and Kathryn Gardner, debated '*Killer custard creams and a crack-down on conkers – we are becoming a nation of health and safety psychopaths*'.

They gave a sterling performance, but were runners-up to Cardiff High School, who debated '*This House believes that women's sport should be treated equally with men's*'.

The seniors, again from Bryn Hafren, debated '*This House believes that a baby is a blessing, not a right*'.

In a very tight contest, Rosie-Loup James took the prize for best chairperson and the team, including Lili-Beth James as proposer and Hannah Parker as opposer, scooped the team prize.

Afterwards, the Bryn Hafren team surprised teacher Angela Burd by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers and a box of chocolates for her help and guidance in their success!



Rosie-Loup James was the best chairperson.



Lissie Wallington, Aimee Delaney and Kathryn Gardner receive the runners-up prize.

VALEWAYS WALKS

Thursday, March 25, at 1.30pm, Hensol Forest to Prisk, to Welsh St Donats, starting at Hensol Forest car park, Welsh St Donats.

On Sunday, March 28, 2pm, Wrinstone, starting near St Mary's Church, Wenvoe.

For further information, telephone the Valeways office on 01446 749000.

St David's Day golf at Cottrell Park ladies



ABOVE: The winners celebrate at Cottrell Park

ST DAVID'S DAY was celebrated by the ladies of Cottrell Park with a 12-hold Texas scramble competition between the Daffodils and the Leeks.

The individual team event was won by Sandra Collin, Barbara Ross, Eileen Love and Lyn Thomas, with a net score of 43, and the second-placed team of Lorraine Pointon Bell, Gaynor Smart, Helen Evans and Brenda Stacey had a net score of 49.1.

The Daffodils were the victors in the overall competition, which was followed by lunch with a Welsh flavour, including Welsh lamb and Welsh cakes.

The prizes were presented by the ladies captain, Lorraine Pointon Bell.

CB

Bridgend student wins top award for the Barry College

A BRIDGEND teenager won a top prize when Barry College hosted the Welsh heat of the prestigious UK Electrical and Plumbing Apprentice of the Year competition.

Plumbing learner Gareth Evans (19) beat off competition from apprentices across Wales to win the prize for the region in the electrical category.

Tony Cable, an engineer with electrical contracting body NICEIC and one of the competition's judges, said: "The competition was extremely close on the electrical side – there were three competitors who it was really hard to choose between. But it in the end only one could make it, and that was Gareth for all the work he put in."



ABOVE;
Gareth Evans with Tony Cable.

'PROTECT GREYHOUNDS' says Plaid Cymru AM

PLAID Cymru AM Leanne Wood is backing a Senedd call by the Greyhound Welfare Advisory Board for the Welsh Government to introduce regulations to protect racing greyhounds in Wales.

"The public can show their support for new regulations to protect greyhounds by using www.apgawwales.org/betterbet where they can sign a petition calling for a change in the law in Wales," she said.

Alain Thomas, a spokesperson for the Board said: "We know that many owners care well for their greyhounds, but we are also aware that others do not and that significant numbers of greyhounds in Wales are abandoned or killed. Racing greyhounds are not protected by any regulations."

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr M Phipps – **White Lodge, Primrose Hill, Cowbridge** – alterations to access to highway.

Mr Canning – **5 Harlech Close, Dinas Powys** – disabled facilities adaptation to include ramped access and shower room extension.

Mr John Gilbart – **Kninkin, St Hilary** – proposed alterations and extension to existing cottage including slate roof to replace thatched roof (removed July 2009). Demolition of existing garage and replacement with double garage with games room/storage over.

Mr Clive Edwards – **Ty Maen Farm, Coed Marsarnen Road, Colwinston** – construction of two detached houses with basements.

Rhodri Hughes – **Ty Dan Y Graig, Graig Penllyn, Cowbridge** – erection of mobile field shelter on metal skids on land adjacent to Ty Dan Y Graig, Graig Penllyn.

Mr Evans – **50 Fairfield Road, Penarth** – take down existing bay and replace with new bay and new tiled roof extending across front of house.

Mr Derek Bladen – **Weycock Barn, Dyffryn** – new stainless steel flue, fitted to the west facing gable end wall.

Mr and Mrs G Perkins – **Castle Court, Broad Close Lane, Moulton** – retention and reduction in height of existing hay barn.

Mr Barnell – **40 Wordsworth Avenue, Penarth** – two storey side and rear extension.

Mr Asfi Nasser – **182-190 Barry Road, Barry** – three flagpoles – already in place.

Mr Clive Bills – **2 Murch Road, Dinas Powys** – special needs adaptations, car parking hardstanding to front of garden.

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'WE WILL WAGE WAR ON DRUG DEALERS'

– new police chief vows

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

WAR has been declared on drug dealers in Bridgend and the Vale...

New police commander, Chief Supt Carl Davies, who is head of the newly-merged Bridgend and Vale of Glamorgan divisions, told Bridgend Town Council that stamping out drug dealing was his main priority.

"I have set out my stall already in the press," he said.

"I have a very simple message – I will not tolerate drug dealing across Bridgend and the Vale.

"We have very effective police intelligence system and I would like the community to feed in information about drug dealers, especially those living luxurious life styles – those people who live in big houses, drive fast cars and have no jobs.

"We are looking for that information to come into the system and we will then act to find out what's beneath the life style.

"If it's drugs-related, we will take all their assets off them – they will lose their houses, their cars and every other asset.

"These drug dealers affect so many people and they are the scourge of society.

"People get caught up in a drug-use lifestyle and they cannot get out. Often, it's not their fault. We have to deal with the bigger players – the dealers.

"We need information and we need that from the people of Bridgend and the Vale."

Chief Supt Davies, who has 30 years' service under his belt, said he intended to stay in the division until his retirement, which was some years away, if the force allowed it.

"That's my commitment to this division. I have not come here to disappear in a few years because I want to become an assistant chief constable. I am happy to be divisional commander and I do not want to move elsewhere."

He said that as a result of his years of service, he knew what good policing looked like, but he also knew what bad and indifferent policing was like.

"It is my intention to offer the best policing service to Bridgend and the Vale.

"Words are cheap, but if I get things wrong, I expect you to tell me. That's the dialogue I want with the community.

"We will get things wrong from time to time, but we will get it wrong when we are trying hard to get it right."

He said that the Central Division, which is the new name for the merged divisions of Bridgend and the Vale, was one of four super divisions created by South Wales Police.

"They are large areas but we still have two superintendents in Central under me – Steve Furnham in Bridgend and Leanne James in the Vale."

He said that the three of them would work together along with all members of the force to understand and respond to the needs of the community.

"I stand for effective policing within communities, working with them to do the best we can. We will achieve that by listening to communities and acting on their concerns.

"I want to improve engagement with communities across the whole of the division.

"Pact meetings are good, but you only reach those people who attend them. We also need to reach the people who do not attend."

Coun Bev Quennell asked him about anti-social behaviour and recent revelations that some forces do not respond to calls on this issue.

"Anti-social behaviour is high on my agenda," he emphasised.

"When we talk to people, most of the issues raised are to do with anti-social behaviour.

"We take a partnership approach to these problems working with other agencies including the council and the private sector.

"We need to get to the cause of this behaviour and see if we can tackle it at its root."

This approach had been hugely successful and often young people, who have been creating a nuisance, can be brought on board and encouraged to realise their potential.

Asked about how anti-social behaviour problems are prioritised, Chief Supt Davies urged people to use the new 101 number that was for non-emergency issues.

He said that if a problem in an area had been flagged up as an enhanced PACT priority, it will be on record in the control room and operators will respond quickly.

"You will get our gold service. We are working towards this but we have not reached Utopia yet," he added.

Coun Roger Marsh congratulated police on sorting out the drug dealers in Wildmill.

"The suppliers no longer exist," he said. "They have moved from Wildmill.

"We must congratulate the community police officers who know what's going on in the patch.

"There's a new confidence among the elderly and those youngsters who do not want to be caught up in the yob culture," Coun Marsh added.

GEM RURAL PROFILE

incorporating NATIONAL PET MONTH April 3rd - May 3rd

Local farmer gives Assembly Minister a piece of his mind!

THE Cowbridge-based chairman of a Welsh farming group has welcomed the Assembly Rural Affairs Minister to Penllyn for talks.

The Country Land and Business Association Wales (CLA Wales) chairman, John Homfray, invited the Minister, Elin Jones, to his farming and diversified businesses on Tuesday (March 16).

On the agenda was the question of how the Assembly can work with farmers to increase employment in the industry.

Mr Homfray told the Minister that he feels investment in his 22 employees is as important as in the other crucial resources in his business.

His driving ambition is to maintain a thriving business with well-paid and motivated staff at the core. The employees all share in the decision - making and training is a key factor.

John Homfray said: "We try to do everything in a progressive way, with a high degree of entrepreneurship at every level.

"I am particularly keen on training, and our office is plastered with certificates.

"It's encouraging to see how many youngsters, who might not thrive in a conventional academic situation, respond when given a combination of the right training, responsibility, and incentive."



LEFT: John Homfray (on right) with Elin Jones, and farm manager Mike Hallett. (Photograph by Mike Wilcock)

He added that keeping people on the land in the 21st Century will require foresight, courage, and a flexible touch.

Environmental considerations and the challenges of climate change also demand a degree of lateral thinking and substantial financial investment.

Mr Homfray urged Elin Jones to give landowners and land managers every support as they adjust to market changes. He continued: "It's also a challenge to be profitable without the current level of Single Farm Payment.

"We're needing to constantly adjust. Here at Penllyn, we're increasing the arable acreage and reducing the cattle numbers. We've made a substantial investment in a grain drier and are always on the look-out for investments that will sustain us.

"We're also keeping our costs tight, and we're questioning whether it will be worth continuing with the environmental work we have been involved with under Tir Gofal, when Glastir is introduced."

Mr Homfray also reminded Elin Jones of the "really rough time", the dairy sector has been forced to endure.

He feels it has had a disproportionately harsh effect on Welsh agriculture, because of the sector's historical importance.

John Homfray has also invested heavily in a recycling plant at Penllyn. It takes food and green waste from the local authority and local businesses and returns it to the land as compost.

He's currently considering doubling capacity.

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01446 772229 - Local Delivery

The Bayside Garage Ltd is in Wales' top five garages list

CARDIFF and Vale motorists have nominated Bayside Garage Ltd among their top five local garages in the national 'Golden Garages' campaign that aims to find the UK's best automotive workshops.

Motor Codes, which operates the UK's largest consumer code for motorists, has selected the regional shortlist based on voting by the British public over the past three weeks.

Today sees the first round of voting close and the announcement of the top five garages from 10 UK regions. The final voting stage will allow the public to decide the UK's top 10 service and repair centres based on quality of service, value for money and customer satisfaction.

A national winner will be chosen by the Motor Codes expert panel of judges, including TV presenter and former racing driver Vicki Butler-Henderson.

Andrew Littlejohn, owner and manager of Bayside Garage Ltd, said: "We're thrilled to be nominated in the Motor Codes' Golden Garages shortlist, particularly as it is voted for by our customers.

"We will be on tenterhooks come the final voting stage on March 22, so we implore people to keep on voting!"

Motorists and garages can continue to vote in the next stage of the competition on the Golden Garages website (www.goldengarages.co.uk).

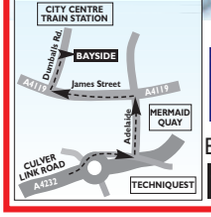
Follow the campaign on Twitter at http://twitter.com/GoldenGarages.

Motorists nominating their favourite garage will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win one of five coveted Land Rover experience days for themselves and two friends.

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Email couzensmachinery@btconnect.com

RICHARD Couzens Machinery Ltd is going from strength-to-strength, supplying and maintaining both agricultural machinery to the farming industry and horticultural equipment to the general public.

Recent expansion to the company has now included a counter service area for customers, with a showroom area currently housing new mowers.

The company will repair, service or supply mowers according to your needs.

It has a part exchange system available; you can even have a courtesy mower, if you have unexpected special plans.

Your item can be repaired on site, or staff will collect and deliver free of charge – as and when necessary.

The company team is local to the Vale and has a wealth of experience and knowledge. Staff are all friendly, reliable and helpful .

Richard would like to thank all existing customers for their past loyalty and looks forward to their continued custom.

He also welcomes new customers – so come and look around!

There are great prices and everybody is welcome.

HOW TO FIND US ...

Entering the Vale Business Park, Llandow, you follow the main road into the site and keep straight ahead, practically to the end to where road narrowing pillars are situated. Turn right and then take the first left; the entrance is at the end of this street.

Call for more information on 01446 771660 or email us on: couzensmachinery@btconnect.com.



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'Strong demand for local land' – says HRT

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AT present, demand for agricultural land is strong, ranging from small pony paddocks to fully equipped farms.

The supply of the property is falling short of demand, with land being drip fed slowly onto the market.

The land that is being offered is selling at a premium.

Following a successful number of collective machinery sales in the autumn of 2009, Herbert R Thomas LLP are putting forward a spring collective machinery sale at Llandow Airfield on Saturday, April 10.

We are looking at the possibility of introducing poultry at the sale, which should prove to be popular.

On the residential side, the country properties which are reasonably well priced from the outset are meeting a great demand from purchasers and selling within a six-to-eight week period. There is more scope for stock numbers to be increased, as demand is strong for the right property in the correct location.

Is your farrier registered?

UNDER the Farriers Registration Act 1975, it is illegal for any person other than a registered farrier, apprentice or vet to shoe a horse.

Any owner knowingly allowing an unregistered person to shoe their horse is aiding and abetting an illegal act.

Ask your farrier to show you their annual registration card and check their vehicle windscreen for a sticker.

If they don't have them – they are not registered.

Owners using unregistered farriers are compromising their horses' welfare, and any lameness caused would not be covered by any insurance.

www.farrier-reg.gov.uk


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Vaccinate your dog or cat in March or April and qualify for **10% Discount** on any dental procedure carried out by the end of April.
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Morning 9.00 am - 10.00 am
Afternoon *(by appointment)* 4.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Saturday *(by appointment)* 9.00 am - 10.30 am
Poundfield Llantwit Major – 01446 794972
Morning 10.30 am - 11.30 am
Afternoon *(by appointment)* 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm
Saturday *(by appointment)* 11.00 am - 12.00 noon
West Farm Veterinary Clinic do provide a 24 hour emergency service

Crosslands' new pool is a boon to aching bones!

A NEW treatment is available at Crossland Kennels, now that its hydrotherapy centre has been opened.

The owners, Mike and Julie Jones, have been established there since 2001, and recent developments also include 11 extra kennels, and a grooming centre.

Crosslands is a fully-fledged member of the Canine Hydrotherapy Association, and the centre has a heated pool and an aquatic treadmill, allowing the therapists to choose the best course of treatment for any dog.

Hydrotherapy can be beneficial for a variety of conditions, including: Hip and elbow dysplasia; arthritis; spinal injuries and paralysis; cruciate ligament injuries; pre-operative muscle strengthening; post-operative fitness and muscle rebuilding; obesity and weight management and general fitness, where it is particularly useful for working and agility dogs.

All dogs require a veterinary referral before using the centre.


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CROSSLANDS HYDROTHERAPY CENTRE
A complimentary therapy which can be beneficial for:
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For further information please contact
01446 793103 or e-mail us at
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Grow your own veg as Riverford shows how!

ASPIRING gardeners can now grow their own vegetables, herbs and flowers as Riverford becomes the first ever veg delivery service to offer organic seedlings to its customers.

The new 'box to grow' range offers everyone from window-box enthusiasts to allotment owners the chance to reap the benefits of homegrown food and flowers. High quality organic seedlings come with detailed growing guides to help a gardening novice through the process.

Smaller boxes will suit those with limited space, hoping for a slice of the 'Good Life'.

There are three 'boxes to grow' to choose from, including a small, medium or large vegetable box, a herb box and a flower box.

All seedlings have been grown to organic standards from organic or untreated seeds.

Chris Moruzzi, who delivers Riverford veg-boxes in mid, south and west Glamorgan, comments: "We hope everyone who buys our seedlings catches the gardening bug.

"The 'Good Life' isn't always easy, but eating something you have grown yourself is hugely rewarding.

"Half of our customers already grow their own veg and appreciate the benefits of fresh produce, and use our weekly boxes to supplement what they can't produce themselves."

Prices start from £14.95 for a small veg or herb box, to £18.85 for flowers, and £27.95 for a large veg box. *Available to customers in London, the south east and south west.*

Call 0845 600 2311 to order or contact franchisee name.

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or visit www.riverford.co.uk

Frank Sutton opens at St Mary Hill, Bridgend

AFTER a long wait and some initial problems, our popular family firm, established 48 years, can happily say that we are now open for business in St Mary Hill, Pencoed, Bridgend.

We have a permanent stores manager working there, Glyn Evans, and we are also in the process of building another workshop.

We would like to thank all of our customers in the area for dealing with us and we hope that the new depot will be better placed to service their needs.

We also look forward to dealing with new customers and businesses in the area.

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See page 19 for more rural advertisers and editorial

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To Celebrate
NATIONAL PET MONTH
3rd April to 3rd May 2010
PETS 'R' US
REGENT STREET
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MAESTEG Animal Welfare Society needs your help to rehome cats.

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MAWS is a small charity run entirely by volunteers – most funds are generated from our charity shop in 4, Church Street, Maesteg (opposite the bus station). Please come to see us if you are in the area .

We rehome many cats and dogs throughout the valleys, Bridgend and the Vale, and we are desperate for new homes.

Please contact 01656 721496 or 01656 653456 if you can offer a home.

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All our work is funded by Charity Shops. We sell bric-a-brac, books, clothes and all items of furniture and we can collect.
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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk
Anybody who wants clothes collecting, please contact the above telephone numbers

Pets R Us offers hundreds of products – and advice

PETS R US is a large two-storey store in Regent Street, just off Holton Road, Barry, and is an Aladdin's cave for people who want the best for their pets.

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UPSTAIRS NOW OPEN
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Visit our stall every week at Barry Tuesday Market
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They have a large exotic pet section with reptiles, small animals and fish, plus an amazing selection of birds, cages, aviaries and pet beds on the upper floor. Also available are full set-ups for your pets and all pet accessories.

Pets R Us are stockists of premium dog and cat food with many great offers at competitive prices.

The in-store dog grooming and care service has proved very popular. Now is the time to get your dog looking its best with a shampoo and clip.

The store also has an in-store qualified veterinary nurse who can advise and help you with you pet's problems.

All the staff are pet owners too!

For the friendliest, most helpful, most knowledgeable staff you could wish for, call in to Pets R Us or call 01446 722228.

This year's Vale show is looking good already!

THE Vale of Glamorgan Show takes place on Wednesday, August 11, at Fonmon Castle.

A record attendance last year has meant that trade stand applications have been flooding in, and well over 250 stands are expected.

Dogs, horses, cattle and sheep will again have showing classes, with schedules available in May – sponsorship packages are available.

This year, James Dylan's Stuntworld will entertain everyone in the main ring with their awesome motorcycle stunt display, along with a spectacular six-bar show jumping competition.

With so much entertainment for all the family, it is the place to be seen and meet your friends during the summer.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN SHOW
Wednesday 11th August 2010
Fonmon Castle Park, Nr. Cardiff Airport
Call Nicola Gibson on 01446 710099
The Glamorgan GEM ensures that show results are reported to the community a.s.a.p.
We appreciate your continual support!



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Spring is around the corner!
Your rugs can be taken to a local collection point:
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- Gwent Saddlery, Newport
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Please telephone Den or Ros Palmer
01454 413023
or **077103 367734**

International polo comes back to Fonmon Castle

ST David's Polo Club is delighted to be returning to Fonmon Castle on June 27 for the third year, courtesy of Sir Brooke Boothby, and the club is raising the bar by introducing a Welsh Polo team recognised by the Hurlingham Polo Association, to play an international game against Italy (sponsored by Microsoft).

The 'engine' of the Wales team will be two top professional players, brothers Richard and Andrew Blake -Thomas, supported by amateur players Stuart Leigh-Davies and Microsoft's Ricky Cooper, who will be flying in from New York to play.

All players qualify due to Welsh parentage, and with Sir Brooke's support the club plans to make Fonmon Castle the home of Welsh Polo for the foreseeable future.

Italy will be a strong team, as the majority of its players will be South American players holding Italian passports.

They are seeking revenge for the pain the Wales rugby team has inflicted over the years!

A club spokesman said: "With Cardiff Castle promoting its own Arena Polo event on the same day, we hope we can rely on strong support from the Vale to promote the game as it should be played, and establish its roots in the countryside.

"Ticket prices start at £30 for a car and all passengers, within a picnic area on the north side of the ground with direct parking onto the ground.

"Children will be free of charge but with a warning that they must be under control, as polo can be dangerous and we would suggest the lowest age to be seven.

"Hospitality and self-catering units are on the south side of the field, prices can be found at *www.stdavidspolo.co.uk* (sorry no children in this area).

"Please come and enjoy a sporting day with some added 'dolce vita'.

He added: "We are supporting the Prince's Trust Cymru."





GEM RURAL PROFILE

incorporating NATIONAL PET MONTH April 3rd - May 3rd



Why you should hot-foot it to Cats Protection Centre's firewalk

FEARLESS cat lovers are going to walk barefoot across a 20-ft bed of hot coals to raise funds to help cats in Cats Protection care.

One walker will be the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Jeff Tildesley, who will be one of 45 cat lovers hot-footing it across the burning embers on March 27 at Cats Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre.

The evening begins at 4pm with stalls, raffle, food, drink and a chance to meet the cats at the centre who are looking for homes.

For more details, telephone the centre on 01656 724396 – see our advertisement in this week's What's On pages.

Point to Point season starts

THE Glamorgan Hunt will be holding its annual Point-to-Point steeplechases at Uplands Farm, Ystradowen, on Saturday, March 27 (first race at 1pm).

A regular highlight of the spring sporting calendar, the event gives the community a chance to get close up and personal with the horses, as they thunder past the public enclosures, with the hilltop setting giving panoramic views of both the action and the spectacular Vale countryside.

All children under-16 get in free, and with car and driver starting at £10, plus £5 per extra adult, it offers fantastic value for a family day.

National Pet Month promotes more responsible ownership

NATIONAL Pet Month is celebrating its 21st birthday of promoting 'pets and people' from April 3-May 3.

Thousands of people will be celebrating life with their pets at hundreds of events around the country.

While many of these events will raise funds for local animal charities, National Pet Month is not just about fundraising. It is also all about raising awareness of how pets make people's lives better, and how we can repay the pets we love by really looking after them responsibly.

Details of how to join in and become a supporter – whether by setting up an event yourself or to see what's on in your area, are on the website *www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk*

Last year saw National Pet Month become the most successful to date with well over 450 events, and at least £64,500 raised for more than 35 animal charities.

Phil Sketchley, chairman of NPM, said: "National Pet Month is an opportunity for us all to learn more about responsible pet care so we can enjoy our pets for many years to come.

"By following our 10 top tips, our animals will enjoy healthier and longer lives."

10 TOP TIPS!

1 Think carefully before getting a pet and learn about its special requirements.
2 Ensure your pet is sociable and well-trained.
3 Provide a nutritious and well-balanced diet.
4 Provide suitable housing and bedding.
5 Clean up after your pet and worm it regularly.
6 Protect against disease. Your vet can provide you with advice.
7 Prevent unwanted litters and neuter your pet when appropriate.
8 Groom your pet regularly.
9 Control your pet and ensure it is properly identified.
10 Take out pet insurance for dogs, cats, rabbits and horses to cover against unexpected veterinary fees and third party liability.

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Gardens open

THE latest edition of the Glamorgan county leaflet, now available at libraries, tourist information centres, garden centres, and Marie Curie shops, identifies gardens open to the public for charity this year as part of the the National Gardens Scheme (NGS).

All gardens listed in county leaflets are also published in The National Gardens Scheme's 'Yellow Book', featuring around 3,700 gardens open to the public for charity.

It is available now from bookshops or direct through the NGS website www.ngs.org.uk

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Barry swimmers set new standards in long-distance 'one-hour' challenge event

RECENTLY, 42 swimmers from Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the one hour postal swim, organised by the British Long Distance Swimming Association, at Barry Leisure.

The aim of the event is to see how far the swimmers can swim in one hour, and the swimming club uses this event as a marker every year to see how the swimmers are improving with their stamina and swimming abilities.

This year, as in the past, they surpassed themselves with swimmers from as young as seven taking part.

The top swimmer this year was Lauren Williamson (aged 12) who swam a total of 4,275 metres (171 lengths). This was an improvement on last year's swim by 150 metres.

The top male swimmer was Kieran Knowles (aged 13) who swam a distance of 3,800 metres (152 lengths). This was also a massive improvement on last year's swim when he completed 109 lengths.

Our two youngest swimmers also did well. Tom Insole (aged seven) swam a distance of 1,825 metres (73 lengths) and Ffion McCulloch also aged seven, swimming the event for the second time, swam 1,950 metres (78 lengths).

Well done to both of the swimmers – even adults would struggle to swim that distance.

Brothers Shaun and Jonathan Bowden both improved their distance on last year. Shaun (aged nine) improved his distance by 575 metres, swimming a total distance of 3,225 metres (129 lengths). Jonathan (aged 12) swam the same distance as his younger brother and also improved his distance on last year by 500 metres (20 lengths).

Not to be outdone by the brothers, sisters Grace and Olivia Insole (Tom Insole's older sisters) also improved their distances – Grace (aged nine) by 650 metres, swimming 2,700 metres, and Olivia (aged 12) by 200 metres, swimming 2,925 metres.

Other swimmers who made large improvements on their distance from last year were Georgia Looker (aged 12) completing a distance of 3,575 metres, an improvement of 600 metres (24 lengths).

Emily Nicholls (aged 12) improved by 23 lengths, swimming a distance of 3,300 metres this year. Kate Lewis (aged 14) swam a distance of 3,573 metres (157 lengths). Ffion Goodland (aged 12) improved by 23 lengths, which is 575 metres, to swim 3,250 metres.

The boys who made large improvements were James Hamer (aged nine) who swam 2,900 metres (116 lengths), which was an improvement of 500 metres on last year. Samuel Smith (aged 9) improved by 11 lengths to swim a distance of 2,725 metres this year.

We will find out in June/July how the swimmers did countrywide. Last year, Lauren Williamson took first place in her age group, so looking at the distance she swam this year she should still hold this position.

Well done to everyone who took part in this event and a big thank you to everyone who helped with the event to make it such a success.

TW



Back row: Emily Nicholls, Jonathan Bowden, Ffion Goodland. Front row: Shaun Bowden and Samuel Smith.



James Hamer, Olivia Insole and Grace Insole.

Barry pace is just too much for Sully RFC

OLD rivalries were renewed as Barry Seconds took on local adversaries Sully RFC on a dry, wintry afternoon.

SULLY RFC	**7**
BARRY 2nd XV	**41**

The away side started brightly and from a scrum, John Dimond emerged with the ball and gave quick ball to Ashley Adams, who continued his try-scoring form with a solo effort from half-way, after side-stepping his opposite number. The conversion was a formality for the reliable boot of Adam Lee.

With debutant Hywel Graham dictating traffic at stand-off, Barry were in the ascendency. Two more penalties, both converted by Lee, put the away side two scores clear.

The home side, however, were determined not to be run over. With a formidable pack that has caused Barry problems before, they were winning the game in the contact area. At a scrum in the Barry 22, pressure from the home side finally resulted in a converted try.

Barry came straight back. Realising the speed of Adams is key, the ball was spread out to him once more. His chip and chase was cut short by a cunning block, but Joel Williams was on hand to collect the loose ball and ground his second try in as many games. Lee converted comfortably.

The away side now had the momentum behind them and went for the kill. A fine break by Grantley Harris saw him offload perfectly to leading try-scorer Luke Bounds, who raced over for another converted try.

While the scoreboard might suggest this was an easy ride for Barry, this was not the case on the pitch, as Sully dominated the scrums and contact area.

In response, team manager Charlie Chucas decided to bring on returning prop James Sullivan, and his extra bulk turned the tide almost immediately.

One huge hit in the corner signalled his intentions, and that, together with some superb tackling by Lloyd Dutton, kept the home side away from the try line, despite good possession.

After Grantley Harris had snuffed out any chance of a second half comeback with an interception try, converted by Graham, Sully had an excellent chance to score, but were foiled by substitute full-back Richie Williams' man-and-ball tackle.

Barry continued to threaten, with the three-man break of Bounds, Williams and Chow looking dangerous on the left, but it was left to Alex Evans on the other wing to chase down a Gary Owen kick to ground in the corner.

Graham's expert conversion from a tight angle proved to be the last kick of the game.

KC

PACT meetings

CASTLELAND PACT, Civic Offices, Holton Road, March 29, at 7pm.
ILLTYD PACT, Mount Sorrel Hotel, March 30, at 7pm.
BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, March 30, at 7.15pm.
WENVOE PACT, Wenvoe Community Hall, March 29, at 7pm.
RHOOSE PACT, Celtic Way Community Centre, March 30, at 7pm.

WE welcome your news. Email:ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Damon and Greengrass' Green Zone is a most worthwhile place to be!

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

IN 2002, Matt Damon's career appeared to be sinking fast: Having started strongly with turns in *Good Will Hunting* (which he co-wrote with Ben Affleck) and *Saving Private Ryan*, a succession of poorly-received films such as *All The Pretty Horses* and *The Legend of Bagger Vance* had made his stock slide.

When delays bedevilled his next film, it seemed like Damon might vanish from the scene, but that film was *The Bourne Identity*, a work which revived his career and set him on a path to greater success.

The *Bourne* franchise sprouted two further films, directed by Paul Greengrass, which raised his stock even further, and the pair team up again for the Iraq-set thriller, *Green Zone*.

Damon plays Roy Miller, an army officer who, along with his team, is sent to find 'weapons of mass destruction' in Iraq; but when they find nothing, and the validity of the intelligence they received is questioned, Miller is thrown head-first into a maelstrom of truths, counter-truths and the political impact of war...

While thoroughly deserved, it was somewhat of a surprise to see *The Hurt Locker* walk away with best picture at the Academy Awards; after all, previous films that have attempted to deal with the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan have received short shrift from audiences and, in some cases, critics.

Throwing their hats into the ring against this backdrop is a bold move from director Paul Greengrass and Matt Damon, but one that pays off in spades, as *Green Zone* is part-blockbuster, part-thriller, part-treatise on the value of war, but wholly exciting, captivating and watchable.

While the selling point for the masses is no doubt 'Bourne goes to Iraq', those expecting *Green Zone* to provide more of the same of that franchise will be left empty; this is no mere retread for director and star.

Instead, they serve up a film that will appeal to the brain as much as it does to the lust for explosions and shoot-outs; and while it may wear its politics on its sleeve, it never feels preachy or sanctimonious, allowing the viewer to be drawn into the unwieldy web of the story.

Based on the book *Life in the Emerald City*, screenwriter Brian Helgeland takes only the merest of meat from that story, and instead constructs a thriller with a side order of politics.

Helgeland's record as a screenwriter is pretty good, and *Green Zone* can be chalked up as another success, the story taut and engaging, querying the political morals of those in positions of power and the importance of skewering the truth to fit your aims, no matter how clandestine it may be.

It is the sort of territory that Paul Greengrass thrives on as a director. His background in documentary and work away from the *Bourne* franchise - TV's *Sunday Bloody Sunday* and *United 93* - carries a political feel that he brings to the forefront here.

While he certainly doesn't scrimp on action and spectacle, he marries it to Helgeland's script to provide a blockbuster with brains that feels like perhaps the first truly substantial fare of the year thus far.

His direction follows the docu-realism template that he has honed throughout his work, but given the subject matter it brings a bristling reality to proceedings, the hand-held, shaky camerawork propelling you headlong into the story.

While he may err on the side of an over-reliance on quick cuts and edits, there is no arguing about his skill as a director, and his ability to handle both the narrative and the spectacle, and marry them together so successfully, does his reputation no harm at all.

Another who does no harm to his reputation is Matt Damon, who is developing into the type of all-round actor that cinema needs more of.

Fresh from his nuanced turn in last month's *Invictus*, this sees Damon arguably on more familiar territory, yet he refuses to resort to the characters he has played previously.

His Roy Miller is no stealthy, Bourne-like spy; instead Damon sticks to reality, the character forced to question his moral compass and the decisions he makes.

It is another turn that merely enhances Damon's already sterling reputation, and one that anchors the film in the reality it was aiming for.

Surrounding Damon are actors who add to the quality on show. Greg Kinnear does slimy and shady better than most; and here as bureaucrat whose power is being used to the advantage of America, he is superb, offering anything but a clear cut villain, merely a man who believes what he is doing is right and that the end justifies the means.

Brendan Gleeson similarly offers clout as a CIA intelligence offer who hopes that Miller can uncover what is going on, while the argument that any film featuring Jason Isaacs with a handlebar moustache will be certifiably superb is realised here, and while the actor doesn't quite get the meatiest of parts, he fills it out superbly, making for a uniformly excellent cast.

If *Green Zone* has a flaw it is only that the constant dizzying camerawork and fast pace of the film occasionally means the plot takes a back seat to the pyrotechnics and performances within. However. the thread of the story is never lost, and is a small complaint is what is a thoroughly excellent piece of work.

VERDICT - A high-octane thriller with a pace that never lets up, *Green Zone* is a masterful piece of work from director Paul Greengrass.

With the right mix of spectacle and intelligence, plus superb performances from Matt Damon and an excellent cast, *Green Zone* hits all the right spots. *Essential viewing*.

Another great GEM stamp competition!

A GARDEN dedicated to Welsh naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace proved to be the perfect backdrop for the launch of Royal Mail stamps celebrating the Royal Society.

Readers of The Glamorgan GEM can win themselves a set of these special presentation packs in this month's Royal Mail stamp competition.

The National Botanic Garden of Wales in Carmarthen has already celebrated the Welsh scientist, famous for being the co-author of Charles Darwin's original publication of the Theory of Evolution.

All you have to do to enter the competition is answer the following question:

Who came up with the Theory of Evolution: **A** *Charles Darwin* **B** *Charles Dance* **C** *Prince Charles?*

Send your entries, marked 'Royal Society Stamps Competition', to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, March 26.

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into – Good luck!

Benji wants a good home

The GEM has joined forces with the Dog's Trust to find caring new owners for animals at its Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)

BENJI is a two-year-old terrier described by the centre as a strong-minded and determined little dog used to getting his own way.

"He needs confident and consistent handling as he will try to take advantage once he has found his feet in the home. He's housetrained and fine to be left for a couple of hours. He's active, gets on well with other dogs and enjoys playing with toys.

"Benji likes nothing more than digging and playing with our agility equipment."

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Out and About with The GEM

Women's Day display in Barry



ABOVE, from left: Vale Council arts development officer Tracey Harding; Women's Arts development officer Emily Hinshel-Wood; Professor Teresa Rees; cellist Lucy O'Connor; Women's Arts development manager Rebecca Spooner; Iron Maidens' Dilys Jackson, and Women's Arts Chair Gwyneth Price.

AS part of celebrations for International Women's Day on March 8, Art Central, at Barry town hall, paid host to nearly 100 guests at the official opening of the Women's Arts Association and Iron Maidens exhibition.

It was opened by Professor Teresa Rees, from the Cardiff School of Social Sciences based at Cardiff University, an advocate for women's work and rights.

The open exhibition runs at the gallery until March 27.

It features over 75 examples of art works including paintings, prints, drawings, photographs and sculptures from women artists across south Wales.

MUSIC EVENING

CHANGING Scene Dance Company hold 'An Evening at Home' with a collection of modern music, song and dance at 7pm in Barry Arts Centre, Winston Road, Barry, from March 25-27.

Tickets £6, can be pre-booked on 029 2063 3217 or 01446 739702.

New members welcome when the new term commences on April 9.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number 609.

- **£4,500:** 728415.
- **£2,000:** 401689 .
- **£10:** 828797: 637881: 393537: 112186: 158361: 410940: 588651: 358970: 501419: 861943: 210183; 823636; 888442; 617641; 897482; 520343; 413945; 762478; 689457; 458744; 707720; 485227; 736179; 390686; 814888; 839660; 725136; 545299; 686091; 598809; 731714; 195264; 110807; 589790; 802900; 895869; 472256; 848193; 726867; 703745; 214408.
- **£5:** 234910; 221665; 852668; 347451; 427387; 377980; 840719; 563113; 669212; 278933; 472363; 782320; 583041; 583222; 591831; 718125; 502697; 876975; 741030; 135743; 442046; 735037; 771608; 591182; 626700; 128442; 645560; 312827; 855003;

314738: 814503: 809776: 407561: 268808: 306001: 706576: 872308: 356787: 769417.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Book winners

THE winners of our recent competition in conjunction with World Book Day were:

Steve Thomas, Dinas Powys and Mr D Johns, Litchard (adult prizes); and Miss PW Jones, Cowbridge and Jessica Cooper, Llantwit Major (children's prizes).

Congratulations to you all!

Guides stamps winners

THE winners of a presentation pack of girl-guiding stamps are:

Anne Baxter, St Athan; Miss Edna Ann James, Ogmore Vale; Mr A Grisdale, Barry; Mrs C Le Breuilly; C Clancy, Bridgend; Alice Phillips, Penarth; Jocelyn James, Boverton; D Griffiths, Cardiff; Clara Thomas, Nottage; P Huish, Cowbridge; Mrs ER Eskins, Barry; Mr EW Powell, Pencoed; Mr Roy Williams, Llanblethian; George Jeffery, Wick; Natalie Canning, St Brides Major; Mrs DJ Lark, Barry; Joan Francis, Bridgend; C Spear, Penarth; Mrs D Overy, Boverton; DP Lewis, St Brides Major.

Quiz in the park

VICTORIA PARK, Cadoxton is hosting an 'Easter Egg Quiz' on Good Friday, April 2 from 11am-12noon.

Quiz sheets will be available from the park office, near the bowling green, and park manager Jon Greatrex, said: "If you are quick on your feet, and get all the answers right, you can win a chocolate Easter egg.

"There are more than 30 eggs to be won, so if you like chocolate, we 'eggspect' to see you on Good Friday."

Will you take the mountain challenge for Marie Curie?

THE Marie Curie Cancer Care charity is urgently seeking volunteers prepared to lace up their walking boots and climb a mountain, to raise money to help the terminally ill.

Every year, the charity which runs the hospice in Penarth, raises thousands of pounds thanks to people who take on the UK Mountain Challenge. In Wales, the target is to reach the 3,560 ft peak of Snowdon via the Llanberis path – a walk of six to nine hours.

"There are two dates this year when walkers can take on the Snowdon challenge – Sunday, June 6 and Saturday, October 2," explained Marie Curie fundraising manager, Jane Griffiths. "Everyone taking part is asked to pay a £10 registration fee and then raise at least £100 in sponsorship."

The charity provides advice on sponsorship, training and equipment , as well as support on the day, a complimentary t-shirt and a certificate of achievement.

All the money raised is used to provide free home nursing for the terminally ill and support for their families.

For more information on Marie Curie's mountain challenges and other fundraising events go to www.mariecurie.org.uk/uktreks or contact Jane on 01792 461435.

CAOS coffee returns!

THE Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society is holding its popular coffee morning with all the usual fun – tombola, raffle, stalls, gifts and prizes – or just 'take a break' and rest your feet with a hot drink and biscuits.

It will all be taking place on Saturday, March 27 from 10.30am-12.30pm at the Lesser Hall, Cowbridge Town Hall.

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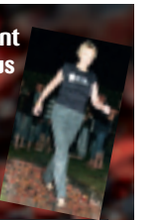
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Well maintained three bedroom end of terrace house comprising Hallway, Cloakroom/WC, Living Room, Modern fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Utility Room. Southerly facing rear garden. Freehold. Ref 455D

LLANTWIT MAJOR – £210,000



Modern three bedroom detached house and garage situated at the head of a cul de sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining area with patio doors opening to rear. En-suite shower room to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 466D

NEW PRICE

ST ATHAN - £129,950



Modern two bedroom semi-detached house with detached garage comprising Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining room, Bathroom, staircase from the first floor leads to a loft room with Velux windows fitted. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 467D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £380,000



Individually designed detached four bedroom family residence and detached double garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, Two bedrooms and Bathroom to ground floor, two further bedroom and Cloakroom to first floor, adjoining Summer house and Conservatory currently used as a games room. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazing. Good size gardens and greenhouse. Freehold. Ref 468D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £350,000



Well maintained detached house and garage with purpose built annexe originally used as a granny flat. Main residence - Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Three bedrooms, Bathroom/WC. Annexe – Lounge/Diner, Kitchenette, Bedroom, Shower Room. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazing. Good size gardens with sun terrace and decked areas. Freehold. Ref 470D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £257,500



Well maintained modern four bedroom detached house with garage and conservatory to the rear situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 474D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £320,000



Stone built detached three bedroom dwelling house which has been modernised and extended comprises Hallway, Cloakroom, Inner Hall, Lounge/Dining Room, Modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Luxury Bathroom, En-suite to master bedroom. Gas central heating. Double glazing. Parking area. Patio and garden laid to lawn, Freehold. Ref 479D

BOVERTON - £159,500



Modern three bedroom end of link house with purpose built conservatory to the rear and garage comprising Entrance Porch, Lounge, Dining Area, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Paved driveway and open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden with access to the garage. Ref 483D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £225,000



Well maintained three bedroom end of terrace cottage situated in the heart of the town comprising Hallway, Dining Room, Study, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Many original features remain and is well presented throughout. Courtyard to the rear. Freehold. Ref 490D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £124,950



Modern well presented two bedroom mid link house comprising Hallway, Modern refurbished fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Diner with patio doors to rear garden, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Hard standing for parking to the front and garden to the rear. Ref 495D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £127,500



Two bedroom mid terrace house with garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner with patio doors to rear, Modern bathroom. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Gardens to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 496D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £180,000



Stone built terraced cottage situated in the historic part of the town comprising Hallway, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom. Double glazing. Economy 7 electric heating. Outbuilding with light and power. Courtyard and rear access. Freehold. Ref 497D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,950



Well presented three bedroom semi-detached house with garage and conservatory comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and low maintenance garden to front and rear. Freehold. Ref 498D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £275,000



Modern five bedroom detached house located in the south part of town comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Reception Room, Music Room, Cloakroom, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 501D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £187,500



Modern well presented three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room with patio doors to rear, New modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating. Driveway and garden to front and good size rear garden. Freehold. Ref 502D. No Chain.

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £145,000



Established three bedroom mid terrace house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Rear Hall, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Goods size gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 503D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £174,950



Three bedroom semi-detached house and garage with single storey extension to the rear situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Area, Breakfast area, Fitted Kitchen, Modern bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas central heating, Driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold Ref 504D

Visit our website for all our listed properties - www.anthonybrownltd.co.uk

Expect 5 star service

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£92,500




Scott Close, St Athan
Well Presented. 2 Bedrooms, Mid-Link. Kitchen/Diner. Conservatory. Enclosed Rear Garden. Garage.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW £97,950



Scott Close, St Athan
Mid Terrace House. 3 Bedrooms, 1 Reception. Family Kitchen/Diner. 1st Floor Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating & Double Glazed Parking Space, Viewing Rec.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£135,000



Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major
Semi Detached house. 3 Bedrooms. Close to Local Primary School. UPVC DG. Gas CH. Outbuilding. Westerly Rear Garden.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£149,995



Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
Traditional family house. 3 beds. Conservatory. Kitchen/Diner. UPVC windows & Doors. GCH with Combi. Southerly landscaped rear.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£195,000



Carmarthen Close, Llantwit Major
Detached Family Home. 3 Bedrooms. Well presented. Family Kitchen/Diner. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Off road parking. Internal Viewing Rec.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW £199,995



Church Meadow, Llantwit Major
Detached Family Home. 4 Bedrooms, 2 Receptions. Cul de Sac Location. Well Appointed Bathroom. Gas Fired Heating, Double Glazed, Garage. Viewing Recommended.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£225,000



Glenn Cottage, Llanwit Major
Period 2 bedroom cottage. Historic location. 2 reception rooms. Kitchen/breakfast. Bathroom & ensuite. Private cottage garden.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£255,500



Newbarn Holdings, Flemingston
Semi detached home. 2 bedrooms & 2 reception rooms. Kitchen with french patio doors. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Gas fired heating. Double glazed. Open countryside views.
Call Simon 01446 791963

£315,000



Thistle Cottage, St Athan
Well appointed. 3 bedrooms. Classic cottage style. Detached family home. Gas Fired heating. Double glazed. Immediate possession available.
Call Simon 01446 791963

NEW PRICE £84,950



Deans Court, Romily Road, Rhoose
1ST Floor flat (1 of 6), 2 beds, living room, sep. kitchen/breakfast room, shower room, upvc dg, electric heating, communal gardens & parking.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NO CHAIN £129,950



Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose
3 bed semi detached house, through lounge, modern fitted kitchen, modern fitted bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, gardens & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£159,950



Readers Way, Rhoose
3 bed superbly presented semi, lounge/dining room, 1st floor bathroom/wc, upvc dg, gas ch, parking, garage, gardens, tucked away & no chain.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£189,950



Channel Close, Rhoose
Superb detached house, 3 beds, 2 receptions, kitchen, large utility, refitted bathroom/wc, gas ch, upvc dg, gardens, drive & garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£214,950



Porthkerry Road, Rhoose
Semi with panoramic sea views, 4/5 double beds, 2/3 receptions, modern kitchen, lobby, wet room, 1st floor bathroom/wc, gas ch, upvc dg, outhouses, large gardens & good parking.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£219,950



Maes Lindys, Rhoose Point
Detached family home, 4 beds, 2 receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, cloaks, en-suite, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, games room, 5-6 car drive & gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE £250,000




Matthew Road, Rhoose
Superb detached property, 4 beds, 3 receptions, stunning kitchen, cloaks, en-suite, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, no chain, extensive parking & gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £284,950



Porfa Ballas, Rhoose Point
Detached with sea views, 4 beds, 3 receptions, kitchen/diner, conservatory, en-suite, cloaks, bathroom, gas ch, upvc dg, detached double garage, garden & large plot.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £317,500



Glyn Y Gog, Rhoose Point
Superb detached home, 5 double beds, 2 receptions, fully fitted kitchen, bathroom, 2 en-suites, gas ch, upvc dg, 4 car drive, double garage & gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £107,500



Riverside Place, Barry
Mid Terrace with living room/diner, 3 Bedrooms, fitted kitchen and bathroom. UPVC DG, Gas CH. Enclosed Rear Garden. No Chain.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £114,950



Meadow View, Barry
Stunning semi with lounge, conservatory, superb fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms. 1st floor bathroom, Gas CH,UPVC DG, Parking Space and rear garden with workshop.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW WEST END £129,950



Princes Street, Barry
Traditional Terrace with thru lounge, fitted kitchen and bathroom, 3 Bedrooms. Gas CH, UPVC DG. Rear Garden and informal loft. No Chain.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE £134,950



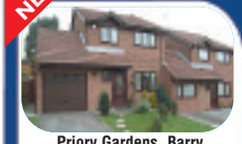
Norwood Crescent, Barry
Semi with extending potential. 2 Receptions, 3 Bedrooms, kitchen and refitted bathroom. Gas CH(Combi), UPVC DG, Large Gardens and car hardstand.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

£149,950



Cornwall Rise, Barry
Superb semi with 2 receptions, 3 bedrooms, refitted kitchen, cloaks/WC and additional shower room. GAS CH,UPVC DG, Parking, Gardens and Garage.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £144,950



Priory Gardens, Barry
Attractive link detached with Lounge, Diner, refitted kitchen, utility and 3 bedrooms. Gas CH, UPVC DG, and 1st floor bathroom. Garage, Drive and Gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW £214,950




Heol Gwerthyd, Barry
Fabulous Modern Detached with 2 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, bathroom/Cloaks/En-Suite. Gas CH, Mostly UPVC DG and Garage with 5 Car Drive. Private Gardens from behind.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE £220,000



Churchfields, Barry
Super Extended Detached with 2 Receptions, 5 Bedrooms and large kitchen/diner. Refitted En-Suite and Bathroom. Gas CH,UPVC DG, Garage and 4 Car Drive. Gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

NEW PRICE £279,950



Highlight Lane, Barry
Detached family house in sought after location. Accommodation comprises 3 Receptions, 4 Bedrooms, Conservatory and kitchen/breakfast room. Refitted bathroom/shower.Gas CH, UPVC DG, Garage and double drive carport. Gardens.
Call Andrew on 01446 713001

1989 - 2010
21
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 24 March 2010

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

homes4u HOTLINE
01446 709840
01446 704316

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ANEURIN ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 200624
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £85.39 per week including water charges

BRECON COURT, BARRY (2)



H4U Reference 202397
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- (2) One-bedroom flats
- Ground & first floors (ramp)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £76.33 per week inc. alarm and service charges

COPPERFIELD COURT, BARRY (2)



H4U reference 970229
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- (2) One bedroom flats
- Ground floor from rear/ first floor from car park
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking

Rent £67.95 per week including service charges

COYCHURCH RISE, BARRY



H4U Reference
Suitable for a family
- Three-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.14 per week including water charges

CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY (2)



H4U Reference 1038789
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- (2) One-bedroom flats
- First and second floors
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal entrance
- Parking

Rent £68.88 per week including service charges

DYLAN CRESCENT, BARRY (2)



H4U Reference 208250
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- (2) One bedroom flats
- Ground and first floors
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £68.45 per week including service charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY



H4U Reference 208339
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £83.77 per week including water charges

GWENOG COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 210849
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60
- One-bedroom flat (FF)
- Lift & level access shower
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £98.31 per week inc. service and alarm charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH



H4U reference 967973
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and parking

Rent £96.81 per week including service, water and heating charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 1039721
Couple preferred or single person over 60 (55 with medical need)
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manger/alarm

Rent £85.83 per week including service charge

HANOVER COURT, DINAS POWYS (2)



H4U Reference 1039447
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
- (2) One-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Scheme Manger/alarm

Rent £95.04 per week including service charge

JENNER ROAD, BARRY



H4U Reference 213396
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £66.83 per week including service charges

HERITAGE DRIVE, BARRY



H4U reference 1014386
Suitable for a family – adpated property
- Two bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Disabled shower
- Front ramp
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £72.88 per week including service charge

MEIRION CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 216087
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £68.18 per week including service charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH – VISIT OUR OPEN DAY



H4U Reference 979031
Suitable for a single person over 60 (55 with medical need)
- One-bedroom flats
- First floor (with lift)
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £93.17 per week including service and alarm charges

25 March 2010
10:00am - 2:00pm
Light refreshments and show flat available
Call 029 2070 1661 for further information

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY (2)



H4U Reference 219821
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- (2) Two bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.59 per week including service charges

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 219950
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bed bungalow
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Gardens

Rent £76.40 per week including water and alarm charges

PLASSEY HOUSE, PENARTH



H4U Reference24133
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartment
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £74.21 per week including service and alarm charges

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY (2)



H4U Reference 221458
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- (2) One-bedroom flats
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £71.57 per week including service charges

TENSING TERRACE, BARRY



H4U Reference 225868
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £64.10 per week including service charges

THOMPSON STREET, BARRY



H4U Reference 1039856
Suitable for a single person over 40 (or person with mobility problems)
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £68.90 per week including service charge

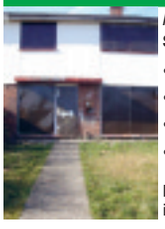
WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY



H4U Reference 228224
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family – no pets
- Two bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £70.87 per week including service charges

WESTBURY CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 227921
Suitable for a family
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £81.85 per week including water charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Colombus Close	94	Gold	04/01/10
Thomas Close	27	Silver	11/11/09

Addtional **Feedback** will appear in the next Homes4U advert

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Situations Vacant

Vacancies for LEA Governors

Applications are invited from those wishing to be considered by the appropriate Advisory Panel for the current Governor vacancies. The Code of Practice on LEA-School Relations states that LEA governors should be appointed on the basis of the skills and experience that they could bring to a school's governing body and the Council's appointment process reflects this requirement as well as the following criteria. Governing bodies need people who: -

- are committed to regular attendance at meetings (usually at least six per academic year);
- have a genuine desire to help improve school standards in partnership with the staff;
- have an interest in and knowledge of the community that the school serves;
- have a knowledge of modern education issues; and
- are committed to attend governor training courses provided by the LEA to update their skills and knowledge to enhance their ability and effectiveness as a governor.

Currently there are vacancies at the following schools: -

Bute Cottage Nursery	Llansannor C/W Primary
Cadoxton Nursery	Palmerston Primary
Cogan Nursery	St Andrews C/W Primary
Cogan Primary	St Helens RIC Junior
Gladstone Primary	St Josephs RIC Primary
Gwenfo C/W Primary	St Nicholas C/W Primary
Holton Primary	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant

Please note that the meetings of Welsh Medium Schools are not all conducted in Welsh, and that where they are, translation facilities are provided.

If you feel that you can fulfil the above criteria and are interested in being considered as an LEA governor at one of the above schools please contact Jeremy Morgan on 01446 709108 (direct line) for an application form. Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is no later than midday on **Thursday 15 April 2010.**

Swyddi i Lywodraethwyr AALL

Gwahoddir ceisiadau oddi wrth y rhai a hoffai gael eu hystyried gan y Panel Ymgynghorol priodol ar gyfer y swyddi presennol i Lywodraethwyr. Yn ôl y Côd Ymarfer ar'n rhesli cysylltiadau rhwng Awdurdodau Addysg Lleol ac Ysgolion, dylid penodi llywodraethwyr AALl ar sail y sgiliau ait profiad sydd ganddynt i'w cynnig i gyrff llywodraethol ysgolion, ac mae proses benodi'r Cyngor yn adlewyrchu'r gofyn hwn yn ogystal â'r meini prawf canlynol. Mae ar gyrff llywodraethol angen pobl sydd: -

- wedi ymrwymo i fynychu cyfarfodydd yn rheolaidd (saf o leiaf dwy chyfarfod bob blwyddyn academaidd llawn);
- yn wirioneddol awyddus i helpu i godi safonau ysgolion drwy gydweithio â'r staff;
- yn ymddiddori yn y gymuned y mae'r ysgol yn ei gwasanaethu ac yn gwybod rhywbeint amdani;
- yn gyfarwydd â phrysiau addysg cyfoes; ac
- wedi ymrwymo i fynychu'r cyrsiau hyfforddi y bydd yr AALl yn eu cynnig i lywodraethwyr ar mwyn neithrin eu sgiliau ac ehangu eu gwybodaeth at ddibenion cyfoes fel y bônt yn fwy abl ac effeithiol yn eu swyddi.

Mae swyddi ar gael i lywodraethwyr ar hyn o bryd yn yr ysgolion canlynol: -

Ysgol Feithrin Bute Cottage	Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Llansannor
Ysgol Feithrin Tregatwg	Ysgol Gynradd Palmerston
Ysgol Feithrin Cogan	Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Saint Andras
Ysgol Gynradd Cogan	Ysgol Plant Iau y Santes Helen
Ysgol Gynradd Gladstone	Ysgol Gynradd Sant Joseff
Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Gwenfo	Ysgol Gynradd yr Eglwys yng Nghymru Sain Nicolas
Ysgol Gynradd Holton	Ysgol Gwaun y Nant

Sylech na fydd yr Ysgolion Cymraeg yn cynnal eu hoil gyfarfodydd yn Gymraeg a phan fydd hynny'n digwydd bydd cyfleusterau cyfieithu ar gael.

Os teimlwch y gallech fodloni'r meini prawf uchod ac yr hoffech gael eich ystyried ar gyfer swydd llywodraethwr AALl yn un o'r ysgolion uchod, ffoniwch Jeremy Morgan ar 01446 709108 (llinell uniongyrchol) a gofynnwch am ffurflen gais. **Dydd Iau 15 Ebrill 2010** erbyn **canol dydd** fan bellaf yw'r dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn ffurflenni cais wedi'u cwblhau.

The Glamorgan GEM
requires a
Freelance Typist
to work at short notice on an hourly basis as and when required.
£6 per hour.
The applicant will preferably be conversant with Apple Mac, using Quark Express and Adobe Photoshop. However, training will be provided. Speed and accuracy essential.
Please forward CV for the attention of
Clare Gore, The Glamorgan GEM, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL.
Closing date: Friday, 26th March, 2010.

Missing Person - can you help?
We are missing a confident, fun and ambitious communicator to join our sales team.
The reward - a basic salary with up to £30,000 ote
Think you have found them?
Call now on 07825 266660 to claim the reward.
JIGSAW
TalkTalk

Full & Part Time GROUNDSMAN REQUIRED
March to November, Company based in Cowbridge. Must be physically fit and strong, reliable, have a background or interest in gardening. Must be over 25 and hold a full clean UK driving licence. Good rates of pay, uniform and training provided.
Email CVs to
info@groundcareuk.co.uk

Tyn-y-Coed Country Lodge for Dogs
BONVILSTON
requires a
MATURE PERSON
to work on a Saturday/Sunday on an as and when basis.
If interested please phone Pat Jones on
01446 781256

Birthdays



DYLAN LAYZELL
Happy 17th Birthday Babe!
Perhaps the black trackies aren't so bad after all!
Lots of Love ANYSHA
x x x

Happy 17th Birthday
DYLAN LAYZELL
Have a wonderful day and enjoy driving!
Love from all the Panesar Clan
x x x



Lost & Found

Young Ginger Cat
(no more than a year old)
found near Bryn Hafren School.
Please contact
07807 012952

House Clearances

ANDREW WILLIAMS
HOUSE CLEARANCES
FULL/PART
Over 20 years experience. Sympathetic handling of deceased estates, used by estate agents and solicitors.
01446 409266
07885 251742

Family Notices

SMITH
Howard

Peacefully on March 12, at Singleton Hospital, Swansea, Howard, formerly of Boverton, devoted husband of the late Winnie, precious father of Pauline and the late Gareth. Dearly loved by Mervyn and Wendy and his grand and great-grandchildren. Public funeral to be held on Saturday, March 20 at Bethel Baptist Church, Llantwit Major at 10.45am followed by interment at Boverton Road Cemetry at 12.00 noon.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made payable to Cancer Research (cheques only please) c/o Paul Deans of Inkin & Deans, privately owned Funeral Directors, 2 Kilby Court, Loughor, Swansea, SA4 6RQ, telephone 01792 897710.

WILLIAMS
Elis Rose

Sadly passed away on the 7th March aged 16 months. Cherished daughter of Alun and Vikki and sister to Rhydian and Yvie.

Funeral Friday, 19th March, 1pm, Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. No black, please wear something pink. Donations in lieu of flowers to Y Bont Nursery, 01656 646013. Following the service you are invited to St Athan Golf Club.

PRICE Barbara

Loving mother, grandmother and friend to all, passed away peacefully at her home in Llantwit Major on March 12. A celebration service for Barbara's life will be held in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 2.00pm on Tuesday March 23, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. No black, no flowers, no tears! Donations to RNLI or Help for Heroes c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only). All enquiries to WA Brown & Son, Llantwit Major on Tel: 01446 792489

FOREVER IN OUR THOUGHTS

STEPHEN
Raymond James

Debbie, Mark and Nicola would like to thank all who attended the funeral and for the many cards and messages of sympathy they have received. Special thanks to Rev Canon David Brunning for the service and to W A Brown & Son for the funeral arrangements. Also thanks to all who have made donations to the Parkinson Disease Society or the Stroke Association.

Thank You

Margaret & Ken WOLDRIDGE

would like to thank family and friends who attended their golden wedding anniversary party.

Our special thanks to all of those who organised such a wonderful day for us.

The gifts and cards were fantastic!

Public Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IN BANKRUPTCY
BRIDGEND COUNTY COURT
No. 74 of 2004 **RE: ERWAN KIRT**

I intend to pay within four months, from 21 April 2010 (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 0.58 p/£.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by 21 April 2010 otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.insolvency.gov.uk, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively you can contact my office at 2nd Floor, Sunley House, Bedford Park, CROYDON, CR0 1TX telephone 02086 676017 to supply a form.

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Cardiff and Vale Schools' success in championships

Report by PETER MORRIS: Pictures by IAN DIXON

PUPILS from Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools district enjoyed their most successful day at the recent Aviva sponsored 48th Welsh Schools' National cross-country championships since the year-7 age group races were added to the programme in 2004.

Although only two individual medals were gained, the Cardiff & the Vale squads figured in the top three placings in all eight races, with the 85 pupils competing in the maroon and gold district colours returning home with 48 team medals.

Of the two individual medals, one was claimed by a Vale pupil. Megan Osborne (Llantwit), always a likely top three placer after her consistent form throughout the season, looked destined for third place in the junior girls' (years 8 and 9) race behind the long-time leaders, Rebecca Evans (Y Pant, Glamorgan Valleys, year-9) and Olivia Gwyn (Bishopston, Afan Nedd Tawe, year-8), until, in the finishing straight, Evans weakened and Osborne came storming past to take second place.

There was also an added bonus. With Kate Seary (Whitchurch) choosing the best possible moment to have her 'run of the season' to take fourth place and the other four scorers packing from 16th to 21st, the girls also claimed the team title with a score of 80 points, ahead of South East Wales and Dyfed. Year-8 Kate Coker (Stanwell, 18th) was the fourth scorer for this gold medal winning team.

The day had started with better than expected news for the Cardiff & the Vale team managers. There had been huge concerns over whether a scoring team of six senior girls could be fielded for the opening race.

Thankfully, all six selected arrived at the start line and finished the course to claim second team spot behind Dyfed. Sabrina James (Cowbridge, 28th) played a vital part in gaining this team success.



Sixth former Sabrina James (Cowbridge, 203) was rewarded for her efforts with team silver.

In the senior boys' race, Owen Haswell (Stanwell, year-12) , who has had a miserable time with injury over the last 12 months, could afford a smile of pleasure as he had enough still left to battle it out with last November's Inter Schools' senior champion, Josh Harries (Penweddig, Dyfed, year-13), and beat him to claim fifth place.

Behind Haswell, Darren Jones (Llantwit, 14th, year-12) and Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg, 23rd, year-12) were the third and fourth scorers for a team which finished with bronze medals behind Dyfed and North East Wales.

The only Cardiff & the Vale individual gold medal came in race four, with Radyr year-9 Jack Gooch claiming his first national title in the junior boys (under-15) race, and leading that squad, which included Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg, 37th, year-8), to another set of bronze medals.

In the two year-7 races, Dyfed athletes produced impressive performances. The Cardiff & the Vale boys' claimed silver medals with Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry, 21st) finishing as sixth counter, while the Cowbridge duo of Nadine James (25th) and Rebecca Thomas (26th) were scorers for the bronze-medal winning girls' team.

The two middle (years 10 and 11) teams had been very weak in 2009, and had not figured in the top three. This year, they bounced back to produce vastly improved showing.

Bethan Daw (St Cyres, year-11) led the girls' home in a well-deserved seventh place with Penllyn resident Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral, year-10) bouncing back after long-term illness to finish ninth. Both athletes helped the team finish on 85 points, one of the best totals for many years but, sadly, only good enough for second place.



Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral, 9th) second scorer for the silver medal winning middle girls' team.

The last race of the day, for the middle boys, brought a second Cardiff & the Vale team win.

Missing the much-improved Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive, year-10), on a skiing holiday, and with Daniel Lewis (St Cyres, year-11) and Callam Barrie (Barry Comprehensive, year-10) not on top form, the young team, which included Sully resident Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg, year-10, 12th) in the scorers, did just enough to defeat Dyfed (88) by two points.

At the end of a long afternoon, the Cardiff & the Vale points total stood at a best-ever score of 111 (out of a maximum possible total of 120), but this was not enough to claim the overall points total from Dyfed, who, with six team successes, had amassed 117 points.

All the pupils, who represented Cardiff & the Vale Schools at these championships, are invited to the annual cross-country presentation evening, which will be held at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry on Tuesday, May 11, starting at 7 pm, to receive their district colours.

Results of Vale pupils:
Senior boys – 6.4 km – 50 finishers: 5 Owen Haswell (Stanwell) 21:54; 14 Darren Jones (Llantwit) 23:32; 23 Dominic Farr (Bro Morgannwg) 24:15; 38 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro Morgannwg) 25:45; 43 William Elliot (Cowbridge) 26:19; 49 Ieuan Donovan (Bro Morgannwg) 28:55.

Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 111.

Middle boys – 5.7 km – 62 finishers: 12 Rory Heslop (Bro Morgannwg) 21:07; 26 Daniel Lewis (St Cyres) 21:56; 36 Rhys George (Bro Morgannwg) 22:33; 46 Callam Barrie (Barry Comp) 23:19.

Teams: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 86.

Junior boys – 4.3 km – 63 finishers: 37 Dafydd George (Bro Morgannwg) 16:21.

Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 107.

Year-7 boys – 2.8 km – 66 finishers: 21 Elliot Morris-Devred (Barry Comp) 11:21; 26 Tom Lucas (Cowbridge) 11:32; 31 Ellis Rosser (Cowbridge) 11:36.

Teams: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 87.

Senior girls – 4.8 km – 35 finishers: 28 Sabrina James (Cowbridge) 26:50.

Teams: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 141.

Middle girls – 4.3 km – 59 finishers: 7 Bethan Daw (St Cyres) 17:00; 9 Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral) 17:17; 23 Fiona Bray (Cowbridge) 18:24; 25 Danielle Green (St Richard Gwyn) 18:47; 38 Eloise Laity (Westbourne) 19:43.

Teams: 2 Cardiff & the Vale 85.



Owen Haswell (Stanwell) on his way to a well-deserved fifth place in the senior boys race, plus team bronze and international selection.

Junior girls – 3.5 km – 74 finishers: 2 Megan Osborne (Llantwit) Major 13:35; 18 Kate Coker (Stanwell) 14:33; 28 Erin Hayes (Llantwit) 14:49; 34 Annabel Curle (Cowbridge) 14:56; 48 Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit) 15:25.

Teams: 1 Cardiff & the Vale 80 15 points.

Year-7 girls – 2.8 km – 69 finishers: 25 Nadine James (Cowbridge) 12:29; 26 Rebecca Thomas (Cowbridge) 12:30; 31 Ana Mirza-Davies (Stanwell) 12:40.

Teams: 3 Cardiff & the Vale 129.

Overall points: 1 Dyfed 117; 2 Cardiff & the Vale 111.

Congratulations!

Following these championships, Bethan Daw (St Cyres) and Megan Osborne (Llantwit) were selected to represent Welsh Schools against the top under-17 and under-15 girls from England, Scotland and All-Ireland at the Aviva SIAB schools cross-country international to be hosted by English Schools at Truro on Saturday, March 27.

On the same date, Owen Haswell (Stanwell) has been included in the Welsh Schools senior team to compete against the Welsh Athletics under-20 squad as part of the Aviva Home Countries International to be held at Mansfield in Nottinghamshire.



Individual silver, team gold and international selection for Megan Osborne (Llantwit).

Wolves show their bite at half-time



DINAS WOLVES played at half-time at the Murch on Saturday.

Dinas Wolves play in the under-8s mini section of the Barry leagues, and currently have five boys training with Cardiff City.

Young Callum Hobbs even made it into the prep squad which trains on a Friday evening at Treforest.

The boys train twice a week and at present have more than 20 in their squad, fielding four teams on a Saturday morning.

Well done, lads, keep up the hard work.

LS

Golfers win prize tickets in arthritis fundraiser

ARTHRITIS Research UK (formerly known as the Arthritis Research Campaign or 'arc') celebrated St David's Day by holding its eighth annual ball at the Cardiff City Hall.

SHS Scaffolding of Barry donated for auction two prize tickets fof a weekend four ball on the 2010 Ryder Cup course, which raised £800 towards the £6,000 total, that will be used to help the fight against arthritis.

Local golfers, Pryderi Ap Hywel of Penarth and Dennis Maunder of Llandough, who raised the winning bids for the tickets are pictured with Anna-Marie Jones, the regional fundraising officer and an arthritis sufferer herself.

To learn more about the work of Arthritis Research UK, contact regional office on 01446 722957 or a.jones@arthritisresearchuk.org.



ABOVE: Pryderi ap Hywel.



RIGHT: Dennis Maunder receives his prize.

Charity race deadline is approaching

RUNNERS of all abilities are being invited to sign up for this year's LifeStyle Porthkerry Plod.

Taking place on Sunday, April 18, the five-mile event takes place in Porthkerry Park in Barry, and challenges runners to tackle fields, hills, roads, woodland and coastal paths. It starts at 10am.

The 'Plod' is sponsored by the Vale Council's LifeStyle health and fitness gyms, based at the leisure centres in Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Penarth, and is organised in association with Penarth and Dinas Runners.

Jonathan Rogers, the Vale Council's LifeStyle operations manager, said: "Now in its fifth year, the Plod has grown in popularity to become a firm fixture on the local sporting calendar. The event has attracted international runners, club members and relative novices who like a challenge."

Potential entrants are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible as the race is limited to 300 runners. Entry is £6 for LifeStyle and affiliated members, or £8 for unaffiliated runners, and the closing date for entries is Friday, April 16. All entrants must be aged 17 or over. Half of the proceeds from the Plod will be donated to a chosen charity at a later date.

There are many ways to enter the 2010 LifeStyle Porthkerry Plod. You can pick up an entry form from the LifeStyle reception desks in the Vale Council's leisure centres, or download an entry form online at either www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/lifestyle or www.penarthanddinas-runners.org.uk.

For further details about the race, email porthkerryplod@hotmail.co.uk, or call Andrew Palmer on 07879 060270. Penarth and Dinas Runners meet every Monday evening at 7pm at Penarth Leisure Centre during the winter months, and at the Ranger Station in Cosmeston during the summer. New runners are always welcome.



Now in its fifth year, the LifeStyle Porthkerry Plod has grown in popularity to become a firm fixture on the Vale of Glamorgan sporting calendar.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas
Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00182/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolish existing single storey garage and wc and construct new 2 storey side extension to form study, cloaks and utility at ground floor and bedroom with en-suite above
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, Orchard Lodge, Boverton, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Boverton

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00207/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Replace existing roof light turret with flush rooflight, replace existing external steel access/escape staircase to first floor flat and install CCTV security cameras on main building and on isolated garage building
Location:/Lleoliad: The Kymin, Beach Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00212/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed side and rear extensions, including basement excavation and front elevation alterations.
Location:/Lleoliad: Bwthyn Castell, West Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llantwit Major

Listed Building Consent
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00180/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remove damaged oak roof structure in west wing of main building. Remove unstable internal stone gable wall down to eaves level (works to reduce gable wall to make safe started 15/02/2010). Rebuild stone gable wall with salvaged stone and build new oak truss roof to match existing with thatch covering
Location:/Lleoliad: Bush Inn, St. Hilary
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00209/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Alter window details to rear elevation of house
Location:/Lleoliad: Downcross, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building
Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2009/01346/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Double garage with ancillary offices/studio and replacement/new boundary wall enclosure
Location:/Lleoliad: Gatekeepers Lodge, Hayes Point, Hayes Road, Sully
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting former Lodge and screen walls flanking driveway entrance to former Sully Hospital Grade II

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar- vog.planning-register.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF
(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest
Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00214/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use development comprising retail warehousing, garden centre, office development and fast food restaurant with associated car parking, landscaping and access-variation of condition 7 of 91/01282/OUT to allow 1858sqm net of retail floor space to be used for the sale of men's and women's fashion clothing or footwear fashion accessories, jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries pharmaceutical products, within unit B only
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way
Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00172/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing 2-storey house, and development of two high quality 2-storey semi-detached houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Castle Lodge, Castle Green, St. Georges-Super-Ely, Nr. Cardiff

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan
Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio
â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00172/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing 2-storey house, and development of two high quality 2-storey semi-detached houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Castle Lodge, Castle Green, St. Georges-Super-Ely, Nr. Cardiff

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2010/00214/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Mixed use development comprising retail warehousing, garden centre, office development and fast food restaurant with associated car parking, landscaping and access-variation of condition 7 of 91/01282/OUT to allow 185859m net of retail floor space to be used for the sale of men's and women's fashion clothing or footwear fashion accessories, jewellery, cosmetics and toiletries pharmaceutical products, within unit B only
Location:/Lleoliad: Unit B, Valegate Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

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Dated: 18 March, 2010
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 18 Mawrth, 2010
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

Cowbridge under-9s take on Bath rivals

COWBRIDGE under-9s played host to Bath and produced one of their best performances of the season.

Bath found themselves camped deep on their own line after some outstanding tackling by the home team. With the Cowbridge forwards taking total control in the rucks, the ball finally came back on the Cowbridge side, which saw the ball spread wide for Barny L Cryer to go over for the first try of the game.

From the restart, Cowbridge continued their dominance, driving the away side back into their own half and, after several phases of play, Ioan Williams cut through the Bath back line to score the second try.

Half-time: 2-0.

With confidence high, Cowbridge started the second half as they had finished the first, playing some great flowing rugby with the ball going through several sets of hands for Jack Dixon to finish off by running from the halfway line to go over for the try of the game.

As the game came to the closing stages, the boys kept up the fast pace that they had set and from a turnover by the outstanding Cowbridge forwards, Evan Thomas went snaking through the Bath team to go over for the fourth and last try.

Final score: 4-0.

TIM'S A WINNER!

VALE trainer Tim Vaughan sent out 3-1 chance Chapel Flowers to win the Absolute Marquees Handicap Chase, under jockey Richard Johnson at Ffos Las Racecourse on March 8.

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Honourable draw for Barry against Goytre

THE Dragons travelled to table-toppers Goytre United with two successive wins behind them.

GOYTRE UNITED	**1**
BARRY TOWN	**1**

The first half belonged, in the main, to the Dragons with some fast flowing football, but they were unable to get the lead they deserved due to some superb saves from Chris Curtis in the Goytre goal, and some quality defending by the hosts.

Richard Ryan and Chris Summers were always going to be dangerous on the break, but The Dragons defence stood the test well and chances were few and far between.

Sam Small, Jaymes Dixon and Rob Blatchford all came close but the half finished with neither side able to score.

Dragons' manager, Gavin Chesterfield will have had a much easier half time talk than of late, with the request being more of the same.

The second half saw a rejuvenated Goytre United, not unexpected from such a quality team, really start to attack at pace. The Dragons' midfield and defence were stretched at times but managed to hold out under the pressure.

After weathering the storm, the Dragons again showed their qualities by putting the hosts under pressure.

As ever in these games, a 0-0 draw was looking the most likely outcome when, on 70 minutes, the first goal of the game came.

Prolific striker Chris Summers twisted and turned on the left and turned provider with a beautiful chip to the far post, where Ryan outjumped the defence to give Goytre a lead.

Having played their part in a pulsating game it would have been so easy for heads to drop, but the confidence among the players is high at present and the team went looking for an equaliser.

It duly arrived with 13 minutes remaining from an unlikely source, Damon Searle. The goal was virtually a carbon copy of Goytre's, as a cross to the far post was put into the net.

There was some ferocious tackling and the referee was forced to brandish a few yellow cards. It was not a 'dirty' game but just two committed and good teams determined to get the winner. Goytre United had a chance when a thundering shot from 25 yards crashed against the crossbar but the rebound was cleared.

San Hartrey and Ian Jones both had chances to win the game for the Dragons late on, but stumbled at the last moment.

The last chance, and most probably the easiest, fell to Goytre United with seconds left, but with the goal at his mercy, Ryan managed to fire over the crossbar from six yards out.

The game was a great advert for Welsh League football and both teams will be satisfied with a point but they will also rue the chances to have picked up all three.

Barry Town: Dan Bradley; Atif Bashir, Dan Clare, Damon Searle, Kirk Huggins; Rob Blatchford, Michael Parkins, Sam Hartrey, Nickie Jones (sub Lewis James); Sam Small (sub Christian Mills), Jaymes Dixon (sub Ian Jones).

DAVID COLE

David breaks British record

DAVID GUEST booked a place in the history books as he smashed the Welsh and British Junior Heptathlon records during the under-20/under-23 International match between GB&NI and France, held in Bompas, southern France, over the weekend of March 6 and 7.

In the under-20 Heptathlon, David, who is a Welsh athletics medal prospect for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, was up against a strong French team, led by 2009 World Youth Octathlon Champion Kevin Meyer, who last year missed the world record by only five points. After six months nursing an array of injuries, David put it all behind him to record six PBs and win the competition by 125 points from the 18-year-old Frenchman.

David's score of 5,793 points set a new UK under-20 record for the discipline, beating the old mark by a huge 311 points and his own Welsh record by 395 points. The mammoth score now puts David in ninth place on the World all-time rankings for the junior heptathlon.

David was particularly pleased with his long jump, as he had been unable to jump in competition or training for 6 months. Carefully limiting his jumps to only two, his best leap of 7.33m puts him at the top of the 2010 UK under-20 rankings and adds one cm to the Welsh indoor under-20 record set back in 1987 by Marcus Browning.

Coached by his dad Mike Guest (combined events) and Scott Simpson (pole vault), the Bridgend athlete can now set his sights on extending his qualification mark for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi and achieving the standard for the World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada.

The Wanderers go try crazy

THE VALE WANDERERS recorded their first win of the season with a demolition job on visitors Old Illtydians at The Rec.

They blew their bigger opponents away and ran in 10 tries to Old Illtydians two.

The game started in familiar fashion with The Wanderers kicking away possession and Illtyds scoring under the posts. The try was converted, despite the strong ice-cold wind.

The Wanderers responded almost immediately with some outstanding support play from Connor Hayward, who powered his way over from 10 metres. Theo Richards converted from out wide.

The rest of the first half was one-way traffic, with The Wanderers running in four more tries, three from powerhouse captain Rhys Forse and Bradley Boyland.

The outstanding Theo Richards added two more conversions. This made the half-time score 31-5 to The Wanderers.

Rhys Forse started the second half as he finished the first, with a powerful drive down the blindside to score under the posts.

Old Illts threatened a comeback with another converted try. However, this was soon snuffed out by a fine individual effort by Theo Richards. Three more tries followed, with Forse ending the game with six tries and a try for Jordan Schrembi.

Despite the captain's six pack, No 10 Theo Richards was voted man of the match for his efforts all around the pitch. The win was a true team effort and reflected all the hard work that the players and coaching team have put in over recent weeks.

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06 **06 FORD Focus 1.8TDCi Sport 5-dr Hatchback.** In panther black with dark flint interior, CD, air con, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, only 55,315 miles.....**£7,495**

06 **55 TOYOTA Rav-4 2.2 D-4D T180 5-dr Station Wagon** in cadmium green with full Faro dark grey leather, colour touch screen satellite navigation, electric heated seats, blue tooth phone prep, cruise control, sunroof, dual climate control, rear parking sensors, only 50,730 miles.....**£14,995**

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04 **54 MG TF 1.8 135 Convertible.** In ignition blue with anthracite Sebring interior, alloy wheels, cd player, alarm and immobiliser only 27,100 miles.....**£4,995**

04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles.....**£5,995**

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02 **02 MINI 1.6 One (Salt Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback.** In liquid yellow with Kelido grey interior, air con, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,325 miles.....**£5,995**



01 **51 MINI 1.6 Cooper (Chilli Pack) 3-Dr Hatchback.** In blue with upgraded black leather interior, air con, panoramic roof, CD, alloy wheels, only 51,500 miles.....**£5,995**



06 **56 TOYOTA Corolla T2 Colour Collection, 1.4 5-dr Hatchback.** In eclipse black with silver fleck interior, a/c, alloys, colour coded side skirts, audio controls on steering wheel, one owner, only 32,415 miles.....**£7,995**



08 **58 TOYOTA Yaris 1.0 VVT-I T2 5-dr Hatchback.** In crystal silver, electric windows and mirrors, CD, multi-function steering wheel, only 3,725 miles.....**£7,995**



04 **04 RENAULT Clio 182 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** In met blue with half leather/suede interior, sports seats, traction control, cruise control, climate control, alloys, 6 cd auto changer, only 51,314 miles.....**£5,995**



06 **06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Extreme 3-dr Hatchback.** In platinum silver with grey interior, alloy wheels, steering wheel mounted audio controls, colour coded bumpers, CD, only 19,860 miles.....**£5,995**



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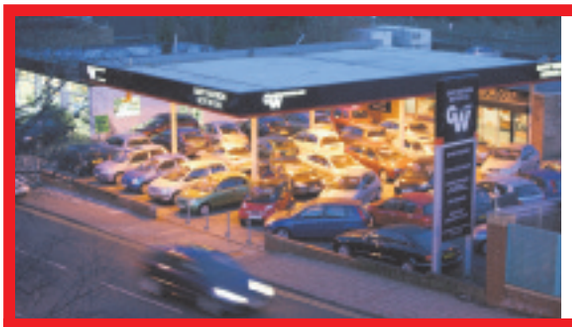
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07 07 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Style 3-dr, silver met, 39k miles, ew, pas, cd **£6,475**

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07 07 CITROEN C3 1.4 Desire 5-dr. Met black, cd, a/c, pas, 12k miles **£6,975**

07 07 RENAULT clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr hatch. Silver met, 24k miles, a/c, rcl, ew, pas, alloys **£6,975**

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09 09 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 5dr club AUTO. Silver met, **only 400 miles!**
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GEM sport

After team again fails to perform...

Dilemma for the coach as Wales face prospect of Wooden Spoon

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

"It was very disappointing. Ireland played very well, but while they were very clinical, we lacked cohesion..."

THAT was the after-match comment of the Wales head coach after a dismal Dublin showing – *not Warren Gatland, though,* but fellow Kiwi Graham Henry, speaking in 2002 after the record-breaking 54-10 Welsh defeat at Irish hands.

Eight years on, it might be argued that in essence not a great deal has changed: Compare the quote above with Gatland's own candid response after misfiring Wales were almost casually elbowed aside by Triple Crown-chasing Ireland in the 27-12 loss at Croke Park on Saturday – which repeated the now familiar Welsh shortcomings in execution and discipline during the Six Nations:

"*We are very disappointed. Ireland were very good and clinical and took their chances well. We again made too many mistakes*."

In both cases, the underlying message across the years was the same, with the New Zealanders just two in a long line of Wales coaches who, despite occasional triumphs, thus far have sadly failed to achieve the kind of long-term consistency that was once taken for granted by supporters weaned on near-unbroken success during the golden years of Welsh rugby.

For Henry, the under-pressure 'Great Redeemer', who had initially led Wales on an undefeated run of 10 games, but had since allegedly 'lost the dressing room', the scale of defeat in Ireland was the final straw.

As press speculation mounted over his future, he suddenly handed over to number two Steve Hansen and departed for the land of the long white cloud, saying he could not take the Welsh team any further forward.

Now it's the turn of the third New Zealander, Gatland, to be the focus of intense speculation, with murmurs that history may be repeated in light of the Welsh team's continuing under-performance, in the autumn internationals and the Six Nations – all a far cry from the heady days of the 2008 Grand Slam that marked the former All Black's dramatic arrival on the scene.



Sin-binned Lee Byrne keeps his place against Italy.

One hopes that this is not so, as yet another change of Welsh head coach in the countdown to a World Cup would surely put paid to any chance of success in the tournament.

However, with opponents now seemingly able to breach the Welsh defence at will; with question marks over both the set piece and loose play; and with the Welsh attack flawed rather than flowing, the embattled squad now have just one match left, against Italy, in which to find a solution to failings that have resulted in three largely self-inflicted defeats (*that could so easily have been four*) in this Six Nations campaign.

More worryingly, with the Rugby World Cup looming larger by the day, the absence of half a dozen first choice players, which has undoubtedly affected Wales' performances, yet again confirms our lack of quality strength-in-depth when compared to France and the southern hemisphere giants, who have no such problems and are able to cast their nets wide, as they build towards the 2011 tournament.

In this context, the continuing challenge for Gatland and his assistant coaches is to hone a richly talented but small pool of players into a cohesive and competitive force, able to finally produce a clinical, error-free and disciplined performance to world standard for 80 minutes – something that at the moment really seems beyond them.

After their courageous showing against title-chasing France on Sunday, including running in two excellent tries, Italy will come to the Millennium Stadium believing that they can record their second shock win in the Six Nations in a desperate struggle with Wales to avoid the humiliating Wooden Spoon.

Hence the more than usual interest this week in the team Gatland has selected for the task.

With one eye on the short term and the other on more crucial long-term planning for the World Cup, was his patience finally exhausted with frustrating players who have continually failed to perform, and, despite numerous warnings, persist in foolish acts of indiscipline that have cost the team dear?

Would he risk a fourth defeat by throwing caution to the wind against the Italians, and give others waiting in the wings an opportunity to show what they can do?

The answer came with the announcement of the team on Tuesday lunchtime and, sure enough, Gatland continued his penchant for surprises by introducing 18-year-old debutant Osprey wing Tom Prydie as Wales' youngest ever international 'cap'.

He has also wielded the axe over Martyn Williams and Richie Rees in favour of Sam Warburton and Mike Phillips; while the equally unfortunate Gareth Delve and Paul James predictably make way for Ryan Jones and Gethin Jenkins, as the coach rings the changes to arrest the worrying decline.

WALES TEAM:
Lee Byrne; Tom Prydie, James Hook, Jamie Roberts, Shane Williams; Stephen Jones, Michael Phillips; Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees, Adam Jones, Bradley Davies, Luke Charteris, Jonathan Thomas, Sam Warburton, Ryan Jones (captain).
Replacements: *Huw Bennett, Paul James, Ian Gough, Gareth Delve, Dwayne Peel, Andrew Bishop, Tom Shanklin.*

Formula Kart racer Tom returns to form

TOM HARVEY of Bonvilston languished uncharacteristically off the pace at the beginning of 2010, and couldn't work out quite what was amiss.

However, after a new chassis rectified his problems and proved the catalyst for an immediate return to form, the young Vale karting hotshot is now revved up to do battle for British title glory.

Tom broke through at the end of 2009 as a genuine front-runner on the national scene with his maiden triumph in Formula Kart Stars (FKS) – the same series that first set Lewis Hamilton on the fast track to F1 super-stardom.

The Bonvilston youngster headed into 2010, widely regarded as a leading contender – but initially, things went far from according to plan.

"We were slow and we didn't know why," he confessed.

"Nothing made sense. I could just feel a lack of power. We eventually ordered a new chassis from Zip, and all of a sudden everything lit up and just clicked.

"The old one didn't have any release off the corners, whereas this one is like a rocket!

"I put it on pole for the final in my first meeting on it and I just feel a lot better driving it, because I know I've got the equipment underneath me now to be able to push even harder."



Another podium finish for young Karter Tom Harvey.

That first meeting was at Three Sisters near Wigan, where Tom scythed through the field in his three heats to comfortably take the top grid position for the final.

There, he found himself punted out of the lead and out of the action only seconds into the race. Undeterred, he carried his scintillating form onto PF International in Lincolnshire.

"I got a blistering start from sixth up to third, and after that I just kept pushing until I saw my opportunity," the Cowbridge Comprehensive School pupil recounted of the final.

"I got into the lead and opened up a bit of a gap, but then the kart gripped up, which allowed the others to catch me again and I ended up third.

"I knew we could have won if we'd only got the set-up a bit better, but it was all a good learning experience and I'd never had a podium at PF before – I've broken my podium duck there now!"

Tom admits that his latest two outings have given him a timely injection of confidence, as has the arrival of reigning British KF1 champion Robert Foster-Jones as a mentor. As he approaches the curtain-raiser for the national Super 1 Series at Shenington in Oxfordshire, the young Vale ace is in buoyant spirits and fired-up.

Horse creates Storm at steeplechase

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

BRIDGEND builder Roger Willcox saw his nine-year-old bay gelding, *Inissam Storm*, romp home a 20 lengths winner under Josh Harris in the restricted race at the rearranged Curre & Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases on Sunday.

Inissam Storm's task was made easier when the chasing *Fealing Real* fell at the second last fence.

Rachel Leyshon's *Check Up*, who, like *Inissam Storm*, is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, ridden by Bridgend's William Oakes, was a six lengths winner of the men's open after making nearly all the running to beat another Llangeinor horse *Sheikman*.

Twenty-four hours earlier at the Tivyside Hunt Steeplechases at Cilwendig, yet another Llangeinor qualified horse, *Minsgill Mans*, proved his recent Brecon & Talybont success was no fluke when landing the men's open in fine style, getting home by half-a-length from *Makena*, a winner of her last three races.

Minsgill Mans was ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams, who was riding his eighth winner of the season. The horse is trained by Jonathon Tudor and is owned in partnership with his brother-in-law Jeff Bird

Cowbridge girl joins athletic elite scheme

A COWBRIDGE schoolgirl has been given free use of leisure centres to help her advance her cricket career.

All-rounder Bethan Moorcraft (16) is one of 40 elite athletes from the county whose sporting ambitions are being supported during 2010 by the Vale Council's Sports Academy Scheme, which gives members free use of the authority's leisure facilities to help with their training needs.

Regular gym sessions at Cowbridge Leisure Centre are helping Bethan feel sharper to develop both her bowling and batting skills in the sport that she first took up at nine years old, when she went along to join her brothers at Cowbridge Cricket Club.

Playing alongside boys from a young age for both her club and school, Bethan's prolific run scoring and wicket-taking has earned her the respect of her team mates and opponents.

At just 13, she scored 157 in one match, while she once took five wickets in another.

Her talent led to international selection for Wales, where she has captained and opened the batting during the last three seasons at her age level, and she hopes that she can continue to make progress and eventually be called up for the all-conquering England women's team.

GCSE student Bethan said: "My biggest ambition is to play cricket for England. I hope that the team's recent success will have a huge impact on the female game, as girls are becoming more aware that the sport is open to them. The England squad are all fantastic new role-models for young sportswomen."



Talented young cricketer Bethan Moorcraft training in the nets at the Swalec Stadium.

Vale Council cabinet member for leisure and tourism, Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "We are delighted to supported talented individuals such as Bethan to reach their potential on a national and international stage via the Sports Academy Scheme."

Youngsters who would like to follow in Bethan's footsteps can go along to a junior open morning at Cowbridge Cricket Club on Sunday, April 18 – find out more about the club at www.cowbridge-cricket.co.uk. For further details about the local sporting opportunities for both boys and girls in the Vale of Glamorgan visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.